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WITH FRIENDS LIKE THIS, DOES MANKIND NEED ENEMIES?

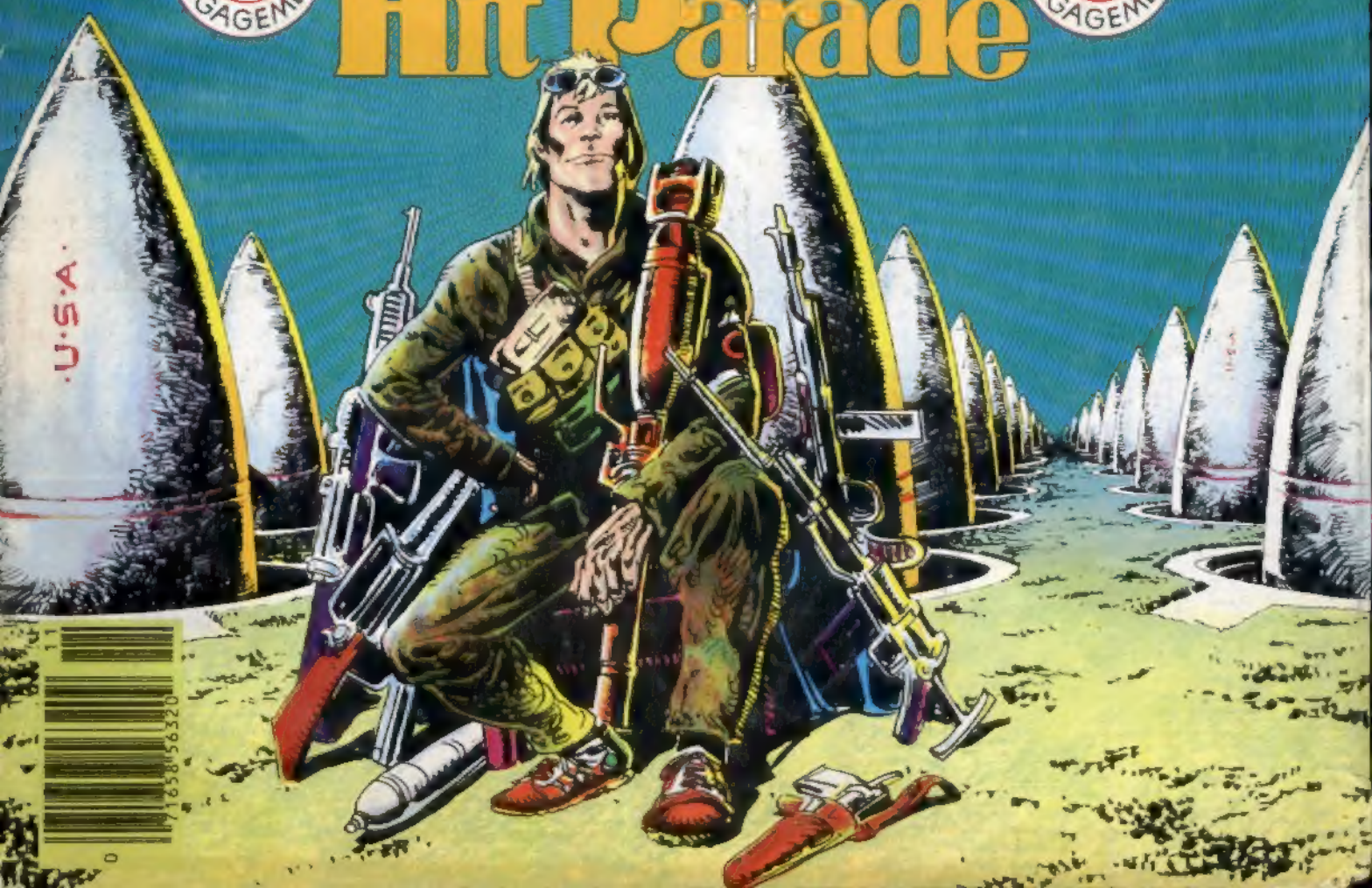
EERIE®

#106

Hard John's NUCLEAR Hit Parade

LIMITED ENGAGEMENT

LIMITED ENGAGEMENT



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Hard John's NUCLEAR Hit Parade

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featuring the magnificent graphics of RICH CORBEN and JOSE ORTIZ

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15 KANSAS CITY BOMBER
25 BRASS MONKEY
35 GONNA NUKE MANKIND RIGHT OUTTA MY HAIR

plus JIM STENSTRUM and JOHN SEVERIN's manic masterpiece
45 THE SUPER-ABNORMAL PHENOMENA SURVIVAL KIT

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Dear Cousin Eerie,

'Credentials' looked like a bargain basement 'Master of Kung Fu!'

The cover of EERIE #103 started off a very impressive issue. The artwork was truly haunting, being reminiscent of some of the work done by mentally ill patients. (This is no slight to **Terrance Lindall** but rather a compliment in that he was able to convey a disturbing message very well.)

All five stories were parts of series of one type or another. Keep up this trend and leave the one-shots to CREEPY.

Although the **Lee Elias** art was nice in a nostalgic way, the Rook story was the worst of the issue. Besides the ever-present illogicalities of time travel, the script lacked any depth.

The two *new* series had excellent first installments. "The Trespasser" was graced with the precise art of **Paul Gulacy** and also presented a less-than-typical post-holocaust scenario. Most times the holocaust is presented as a big catastrophe like atomic war, but the economic disaster hinted at here is probably more realistic and more terrifying since its seeds can be seen today and there is little to be done about it. "The Open Sky" had a lyrical feel to it and managed to present the post-holocaust world as a throwback to primitive times better than most.

Of the *old* series "Credentials" was the least impressive. It's hard to do a samurai story without having it come out looking like a bargain basement "Master of Kung Fu" and, indeed the plot was rather ludicrous, having someone trapped for years for such untenable reasons. It was, however, mildly enjoyable.

"The Damned and the Dead" is by far the most impressive installment in the "Horizon Seeker" series. It had a true feeling of horror and of inevitable doom.

THE MAD MAPLE
Toronto, Canada

I just got EERIE #103 and I loved it! "The Horizon Seekers" was definitely the best story. You have another fanatical collector in me! Keep up the good work!

SCOTT HUBBARD
Maryville, Ten.

"Credentials" was a forceful beautifully graphic story . . . a worthy successor to the "Art of Killing."

It was obviously well researched by the author, **Larry Hama**, and rendered by **Val Mayerik** in a rougher-than-usual style reminiscent of the finest of the modern Samurai comics work from Japan.

It may seem strange that "the Great Lord" would order that the finest swordsman in Japan be locked in an attic for three years on the chance that he would emerge knowledgable, patient and self-controlled . . . and not merely mad. But this is, in fact, what happened to **Miyamoto Musashi**, the greatest Samurai swordsman of all time and inventor of the two sword fencing technique.

A popularized version of this story can be viewed at Japanese film festivals occasionally, in "The Samurai Trilogy" starring **Toshiro Mifune** as **Musashi**.

ALEX RUDNOV
Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Rook appears to be running short of plots. Again it's the same old Rook plot . . . robots running amok and Restin Dane rushes in to save the day. Come on gang!

As for the rest of the issue, it is hard to comment on anything when everything is being continued and continued and continued. Has EERIE turned into a soap opera? I can see the Rook or VAMPIRELLA having a continuing series because they are popular characters. I can even see a two parter for something like "The Trespasser", but when it gets to 4, 5, and 6 episodes you shouldn't be in the dark as to the reason behind the plot. A good example of that is "The Horizon Seekers".

EDWARD JOHN WOJCIK
Detroit, Mich.

"The Trespasser" was the single most realistically rendered piece of comic art this side of forever! **Paul Gulacy**'s art was brilliant . . . totally brilliant! More of this guy's work! More!

Don McGregor's story was ominously depressing . . . mainly because it seems as if it might just happen. More **McGregor**! He's a writer who isn't afraid to speak out on the issues that affect us today!

JOE JOHNSON
Los Angeles, Calif.

Bob Toomey's script for the first part of "The Open Sky" was pretty conventional. It was the art of **Jose Ortiz** that really made it special. His style is much better suited to this stark black-and-white than to the tones he has adopted too often lately. But, when reading the story, one thing kept bothering me: what happened to the companions Moonshadow had in EERIE #93? **Toomey** has some updating to do.

BRIAN CADEN
Cincinnati, Oh.

"The Open Sky" is a *prequel*, not a *sequel* to the Moonshadow Trilogy. Moonshadow has killed Suzanna . . . and all of the League of Assassins who forced him to do the deed, save one . . . the Man With the Jade Arm! "The Open Sky" is the story of Moonshadow's revenge.

Broom, broom, broom . . . that's the way **Leo Duranona** comes at you with his art in EERIE #103. How horrifying, how compelling, how incredibly well done! This issue of "The Horison Seekers" has got to be the best work **Leo** has ever done for **Warren**. It transcends the medium itself and gets into the realm of fine art. That's *really* fine art!

Followed very closely is "The Trespasser" by **Paul Gulacy**. Also a fine example of fine art but in an entirely different way from **Leo Duranona**. This is the most realistic work I have seen in comics in a long time, if not ever! He brings an unbelievable "you are there" quality to his work. Don't ever let this man go. **Paul** seems to have established a symbiotic relationship with **Don McGregor**. They make a terrific team.

Don't break them up!

JORDAN BLACK
Provo, Utah

Misleading words on the cover of EERIE #101! One is led to believe that "Hunter II Returns!". While in fact he does return in this issue, any uninformed reader is bound to think "Hunter II" is the one pictured on the cover. **Jim Laurier**'s superb cover scene is from "Gotterdamerung" and it should have said so. That was, by the way, a VERY eye-catching cover!!

"The Rook" story this time was really enjoyable reading, on both fronts. I've become used to two separate storylines, but why not have all the participants in the adventure once in a while? I think I liked **Jim Starlin** and **Alfredo Alcala**'s work as much as **Alcala**'s solo work. I sometimes wonder how **Bill DuBay** can keep coming up with these utterly outrageous yet somehow plausible ideas story after story! Keep it up!

The conclusion to "Gotterdamerung" was magnificent!! I think **Budd Lewis** has created a classic here. I just kinda wish it had been printed in one issue. Things like the "Fallen Angels" issue should be attempted more in the case of limited-run series.

I think the "Horizon Seekers" has finally started to go somewhere. The plot about the castle and "Merlin" is getting interesting, and I seem to be getting into **Leo Duranona**'s work more.

I've never read any of the previous Hunter stories, but judging by "Three Flames of the Phoenix" it's a viable concept and one that seems like it shouldn't be ignored. The combination of scientific and mystic elements works very well. **Moreno Casares**' art was great and really fit the tale.

What ever happened to "MacTavish?" It seems to me you had a great series going there, and it was cut off abruptly.

With only four stories, I seemed to enjoy #101 more. I think these longer, more developed storylines are working out better than the multiple 6-pagers ever did. Keep up the good work and all that stuff . . .

HENRY KUJAWA
Camden, N.J.

As you know by now, Henry, the "MacTavish" series resumed in EERIE #105. Hope you enjoy it.

Dear Cousin Eerie,

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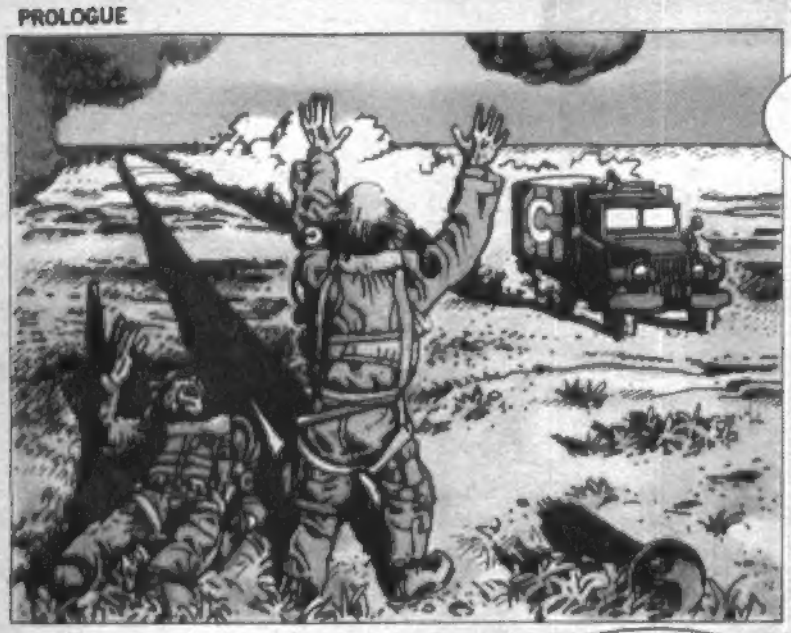
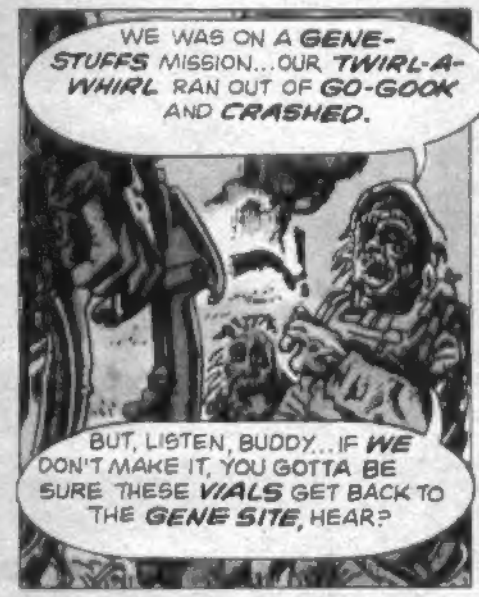


OH GOD, THANK YOU! WE WAS BEGINNING TO THINK NO ONE WOULD FIND US!


WE WAS ON A GENE-STUFFS MISSION...OUR TWIRL-A-WHIRL RAN OUT OF GO-GOOK AND CRASHED.
BUT, LISTEN, BUDDY...IF WE DON'T MAKE IT, YOU GOTTA BE SURE THESE VIALS GET BACK TO THE GENE SITE, HEAR?

C'MON... WE HAFTA GET PETEY FIRST...HE'S WORSE'N ME...
UH... YOU AIN'T HEARIN'...

OH GOD... CATLICK, RIGHT?

WHOOSH!

SORRY, PROTSTINT.

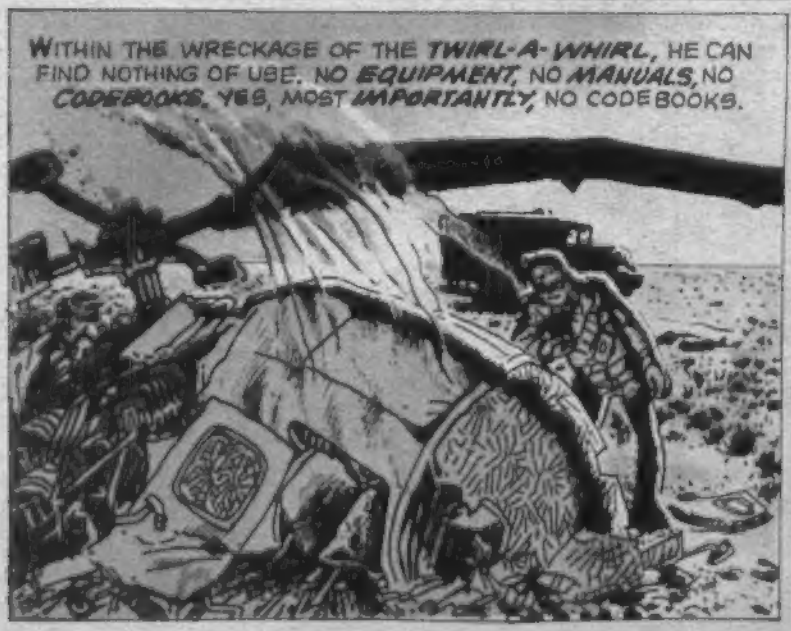
AN ANGEL SHY OF HELL!

THE *HOLY-COST* COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT *ALL*. THE FIZZ BOMBS, THE GINKO PERSONNEL WHAM-SLAMMERS... EVEN THE MULTI-HEADED CLOUD-TO-GROUND FULL-NELSON BIG WHOP MISSILES CANNOT BE HELD *WHOLLY* RESPONSIBLE FOR THE *DESOLATION!* THE *HOLY-COST* DESTROYED AND SEGREGATED PEOPLES, BUT *KANSAS* MUST HAVE LOOKED LIKE THIS FROM THE *START*.

IN THE 12 YEARS SINCE *H-CI*, NOTHING MUCH *ELSE* HAS CHANGED EITHER. THE RELIGIOUS WARS... *BLESSED SMALL* AND *BLESSED BIG*... CONTINUE WITH MUCH OF THEIR OLD STEAM.

IN THE U.S., THE MAJOR GROUPS SURVIVE... THE *CATLICKS*, RICHEST AND STRONGEST OF THE TWO, AND THE *PROTSTINTS* WHO ARE #2, BUT THEY TRY HARDER. THERE *WAS* ANOTHER GROUP, THE *DAVIDISTS*. BUT THEY ARE THOUGHT TO BE EXTINCT...

HARD JOHN APPLE HAS NO RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE. HIS MARK IS FREELANCER, PRESENTLY WORKING FOR THE *PROTSTINTS*. HARD JOHN KILLS FOR *COIN*. AND HE'S VERY, *VERY* GOOD AT IT. THE *BEST*. WITH PISTOLS, GRENADES AND MACHINE-GUNS.



STORY: JIM STENSTRUM / ART: RICH CORBEN

THE DAY GETS INTO FULL SWING IN ***KANSAS***, BLUE AND BROWN...AND ***FLAT***. LIKE A ***PANCAKE***. THE ***PROTSTINT BIG SHOTS*** COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND WHY HE WANTED KANSAS. WHY ***ANYONE*** WOULD WANT IT.

"LISSEN, HARD JOHN. WE'RE GONNA DIVVY UP THE U.S."

"FINE. I'LL TAKE ***KANSAS***."

THEY LAUGHED. THEY FELL ON THEIR BUTTS, ***LAUGHING***.

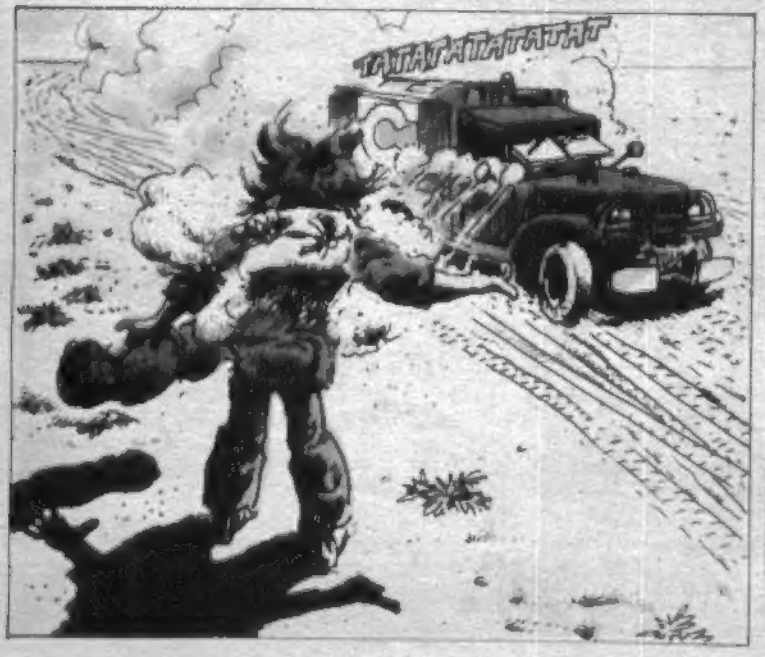
"***KANSAS***? YOU MEAN THE ONE-TIME ***STATE OF KANSAS***? YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN'..."

"LOTTA OPPORTUNITY OUT ***KANSAS*** WAY. REMINDS ME OF HOME. ALL THEM FAR-OUT ***MOUNTAINS***, GREEN FIELDS, ***AMBER*** GRAIN..."

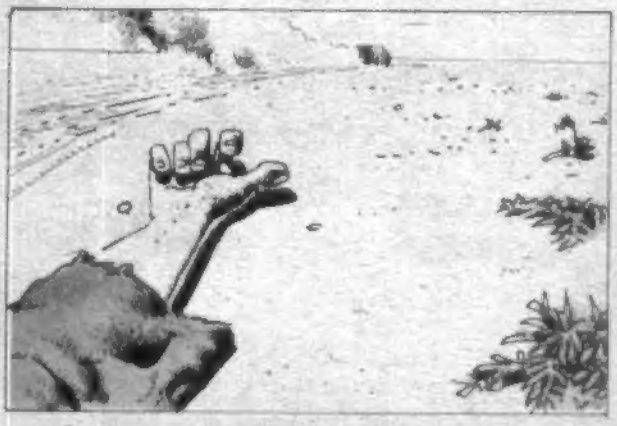
"HE'S CRAZY," THEY THOUGHT. "HE'S NEVER ***BEEN*** TO KANSAS OR HE'D KNOW...

...IT'S CRAWLIN' WITH ***CATLICKS***." "OKAY, IT'S YOURS."

"THINK NOTHING OF IT! YOU'LL HAVE TO CLEAR IT OUT FOR YOURSELF THOUGH. THE ***CATLICKS*** WON'T RECOGNIZE IT AS ***HARD JOHN APPLE'S*** OWN ***PRIVATE*** STATE."



INSANE. CRAZY TIME. WHAT MAN WOULD TAKE ON AN ***ENTIRE STATE*** OF ***CATLICKS*** BY HIMSELF? AND FOR WHAT EARTHLY PURPOSE? FOR ***KANSAS***? THEY AGREED HE WAS MAD, BUT WERE ***HAPPY*** TO SEND HIM THERE. NO ONE ***ELSE*** WANTED TO GO.



BUT ***YOU*** CAN BELIEVE IT. HARD JOHN APPLE ***KNOWS*** WHAT HE'S DOING.

BY NOW, HARD JOHN HAS COVERED 200 MILES. MOST OF KANSAS IS ***KNOWN*** TO HIM, BUT HE OFTEN FINDS HIMSELF ***DOUBLING BACK*** OVER OLD TERRITORY. ***ROAD MARS*** AREN'T WORTH A DAMN PARTLY BECAUSE THERE AREN'T ANY MORE ***ROADS***... AND PARTLY BECAUSE THE OLD LANGUAGE ***DIED*** WITH THE ***HOLY-COST.***

BUT HUNGER IS UPON HIM, AND HARD JOHN LOCATES A LONG-DEAD GROCERY STORE. HE'S LEARNED MANY WORDS SINCE HE FOUND THE FIRST SET OF ***MANUALS***, BUT THE ***PICTURES*** ON THE LABELS ARE ***LIFESAVERS.***

THIS KNOWLEDGE HELPS HIM ***SURVIVE***... ALONG WITH HIS TRUSTY FLAME THRO--

MORE OF THEM. IN THE ***MEAT*** FREEZER. CHRIST-DAMMIT, THE ***CATLICKS*** JUST ***WON'T*** GET IT THROUGH THEIR ***HEADS***. WELL, EVEN ***MISS MARY*** AIN'T GONNA HELP ***THIS*** LOT...

GIVE ME YOUR HAND!

DAVIDISTS! I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALL RUBBED OUT AGES AGO!
WELL, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT ALL RIGHT NOW...

AW, HELL... IT AIN'T WORTH THE EFFORT...

ALL RIGHT, YOU PEOPLE, LISSEN UP! YOU'RE TRESPASSIN'! THIS HERE'S KANSAS, AND KANSAS IS MINE! SO VAMOOSE!
NOW I'M GONNA BE COMIN' BACK THIS WAY IN A COUPLE YEARS, AND YOU'D BETTER NOT BE HERE WHEN I RETURN. SAVVY? UNDERSTANDO?

YEAH... I KINDA FIGURED YOU'D GET THE MESSAGE!

TIME AND MILES LATER, HARD JOHN STOPS TO PONDER HIS BEANS. ***CATLICKS*** ARE THE PROBLEM ***NOW***, HE REALIZES. BUT ***THEN*** WHAT? THE ***PROTSTINTS*** WON'T STAND STILL IF THEY FIND OUT WHAT HE'S UP TO...

AND WHAT ABOUT THE ***OTHERS?*** PAST THE MISSISSIPPI, THE MOUNTAINS, THE ***BIG WASH...?*** THAT'S WHERE THE ***REAL THREAT*** LIES. HELL, HE THOUGHT, ***HE*** WAS A ***HEATHEN.*** BUT ***THERE***, THEY PRAY TO ***COWS!***

SO WHAT TO DO ***NOW?*** MAKE A ***DEAL*** WITH THE ***PROTSTINT BIG SHOTS?*** LET THEM IN ON HIS ***DISCOVERY*** AND ***HOPE*** THEY DON'T BLIP HIM A ***SHIV?***

NO...NO GOOD. PLAN GOES AS BEFORE, EVERYTHING'S ***UNDER*** THE TABLE NOW! THE POKER FACE ***REMAINS.***

CATLICK GENE SITE...
THREE HOURS LATER...

THE GATE GUARD WAS A ***RECENT*** ADDITION. AND IT MADE HARD JOHN ALL THE MORE NERVOUS. HE HAD BEEN HERE MANY TIMES ***BEFORE***, BUT SECURITY HAD ALWAYS BEEN ***MINIMAL!***

AS WELL, THERE WERE ***MORE GUARDS*** ALONG THE WAY! AND THE REASONS WERE ***OBVIOUS.***

SOME SEVEN YEARS AGO, HE'D DISCOVERED THIS PARTICULAR ***GENE SITE*** ... THE ONLY ONE HE'S ALLOWED TO REMAIN ***STANDING.*** A PRIVATE PLACE. A PLACE TO THINK...AND ***PLAN.***

BUT LOOK AT IT ***NOW!*** A VERITABLE CESSPOOL OF GUTTERAL SLUT DRAINAGE IN SEMI-HUMAN FORM, WITH ***FLAUNTING BALLOONS*** AND ***VILE MUCK-WUCKS.***

DAMN CAT-LICKS! THEY HAD NO ***RIGHT!!***

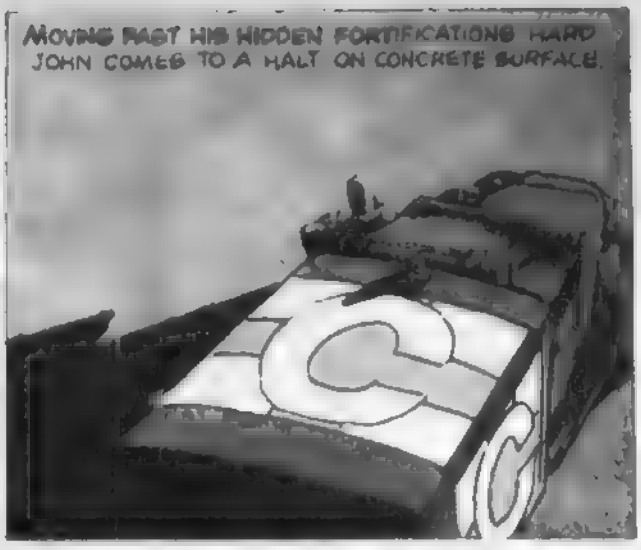
BUT HE SHAKES IT OFF...HE KNOWS WHAT MUST BE DONE.

THE NYMPHOS HAVE NOW BECOME PRIMED, AND HARD JOHN APPLE KNOWS THAT MORE GENE STUFFS WILL GET THROUGH EVENTUALLY. TO STOP THE CATLICKS FROM GROWING AND THRIVING IN NUMBERS, HE MUST NIP THIS IN THE BUD...

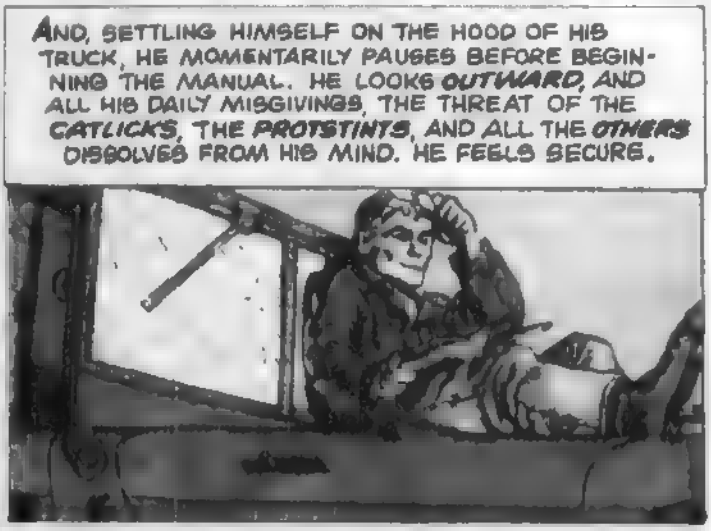
DAMN SHAME, TOO...

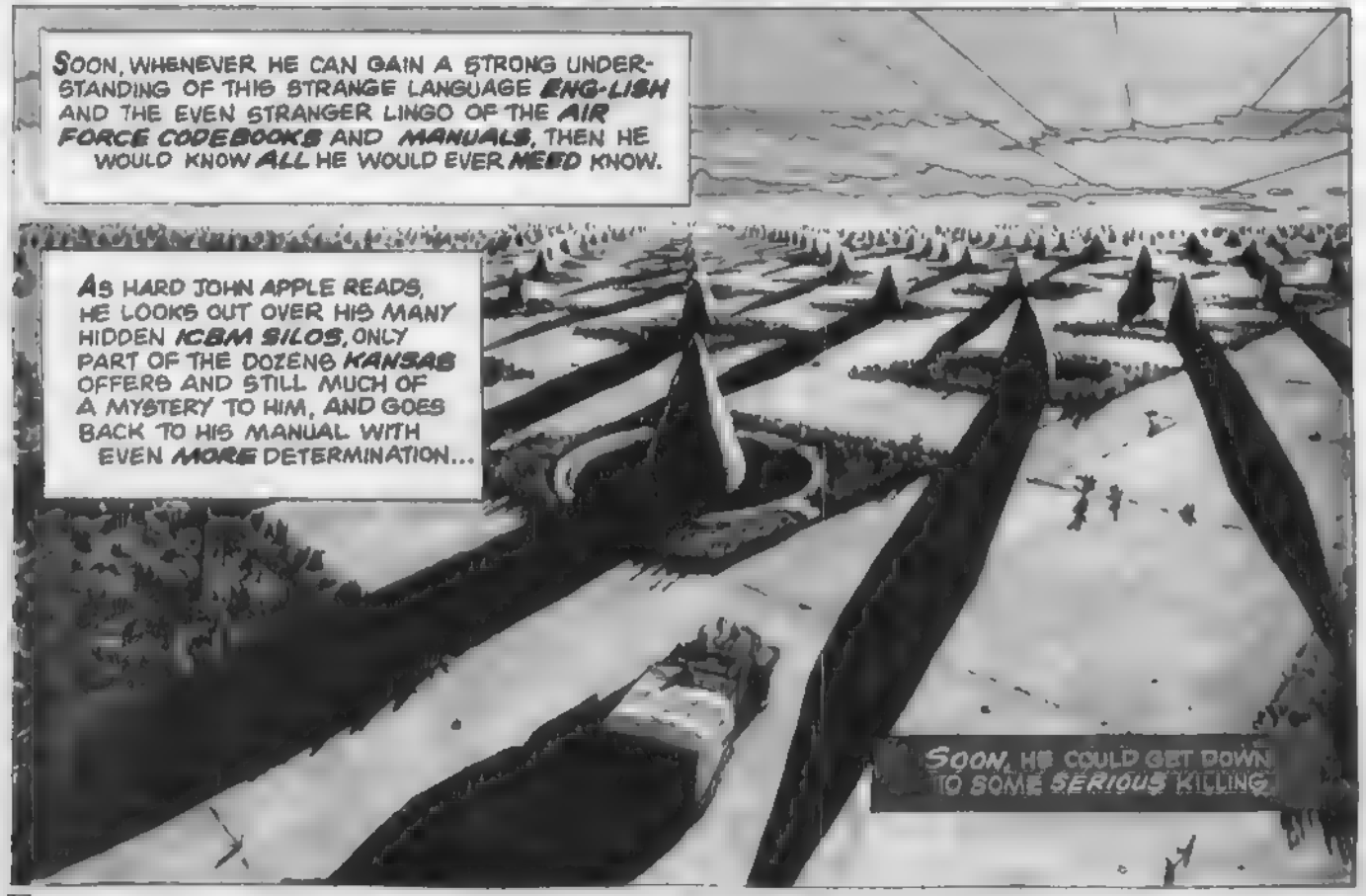
...HE REALLY LIKED THE NYMPHOS

DUSK. SCATTERINGS OF CLOUD DISSIPATE IN A BLOOD RED SKY, AS THE SUN TURNS ITS FACE.
HARD JOHN APPLE IS HOME AFTER A LONG HARD DAY OF KILLING.


MOVING PAST HIS HIDDEN FORTIFICATIONS HARD JOHN COMES TO A HALT ON CONCRETE SURFACE.

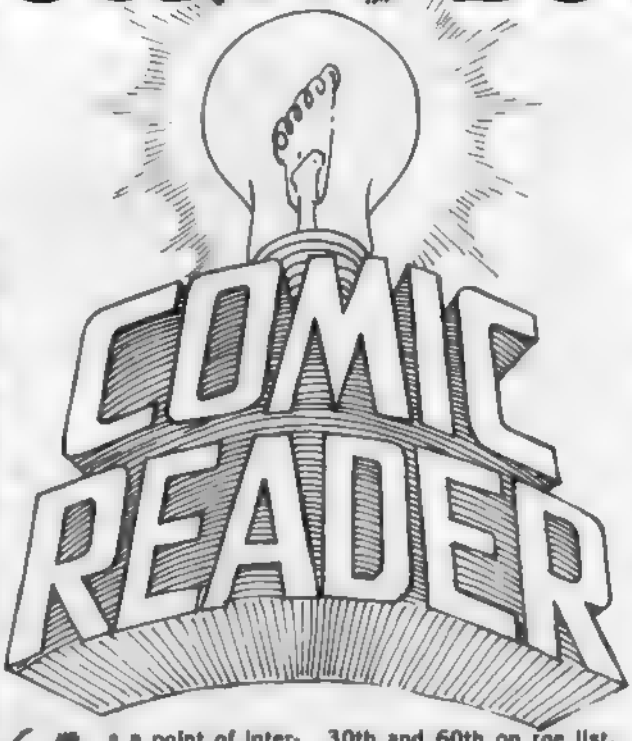
FOR HIM, RELIGIOUS SERVICES ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN. HE PULLS A TOP SECRET OPERATIONS MANUAL FROM THE SEAT.
TOP SECRET
OPERATIONS
MANUAL


AND, SETTLING HIMSELF ON THE HOOD OF HIS TRUCK, HE MOMENTARILY PAUSES BEFORE BEGINNING THE MANUAL. HE LOOKS OUTWARD, AND ALL HIS DAILY MISGIVINGS, THE THREAT OF THE CATLICKS, THE PROTSTINTS, AND ALL THE OTHERS DISSOLVES FROM HIS MIND. HE FEELS SECURE.


SOON, WHENEVER HE CAN GAIN A STRONG UNDERSTANDING OF THIS STRANGE LANGUAGE ENG-LISH AND THE EVEN STRANGER LINGO OF THE AIR FORCE CODEBOOKS AND MANUALS, THEN HE WOULD KNOW ALL HE WOULD EVER NEED KNOW.
AS HARD JOHN APPLE READS, HE LOOKS OUT OVER HIS MANY HIDDEN ICBM SILOS, ONLY PART OF THE DOZENS KANSAS OFFERS AND STILL MUCH OF A MYSTERY TO HIM, AND GOES BACK TO HIS MANUAL WITH EVEN MORE DETERMINATION...
SOON, HE COULD GET DOWN TO SOME SERIOUS KILLING.

THE COMIC BOOKS

by Joe Brancatelli



THE COMIC BOOK GRAPEVINE

An otherwise non-descript and rightfully ignored fanzine called **The Comic Reader** recently hit upon an uncharacteristically brilliant idea. Since there are now hundreds of shops which sell new comics and cater only to the comic-book fan, **TCR** editors reasoned, perhaps it might be wise to check on their sales. So, starting in **The Comic Reader #169**, the editors began a monthly canvass of 20 of these comic shops. The purpose? To gauge the monthly sales of newly released comic books.

And, as they say in the funny papers, WHAM-O. Instant indispensibility. For years, **TCR** has been limping along with a rather tawdry mixture of sanitized "news" about comic books, a barely disguised pilfering of media blurbs from **Variety** and a collection of reprints of syndicated comic strips, most of which we could have lived without the first time around. But with the addition of the top-selling comics list, **TCR** becomes an invaluable aid to anyone who follows the fortunes of Marvel, DC, Warren, Gold Key and the rest. Key and the rest.

Although construing the **TCR** list as anything even approaching an accurate reflection of **total** comic-book sales would be a grievous error—comic fans are not reflective of the general comic-buying public—the compilation will be tremendously helpful in many ways.

For one thing, it will give us a better idea of exactly how important "organized" fandom is to a certain title's long-term success or failure. For another, it will shed light on fan-buying habits, something that is almost as unpredictable as the buying habits of the average comic buyer who purchases comics in drug stores, supermarkets or newsstands. And lastly, it will probably give an advance warning about upcoming trends and fads and soon-to-be-dead comic crazes.

(As a point of interest, the **TCR** list may also become the most accurate public accounting of comic-book sales, too. At least in its own narrow area. Until now, the only publically reported title-by-title accounting of comic sales has been the statements publishers are required to file with the Postal Service. Unfortunately, those filings are 80 per cent fantasy. More often than not, because of the nation's archaic distribution system, publishers are forced to "estimate" (read: guess) at sales figures.)

In the first **TCR** listing, 93 titles were covered. The bestseller, Marvel's **The Micronauts**, sold 3,183 copies at the 20 participating comic shops. The lowest seller, Charlton's **Secret Romance**, sold eight copies. The top 20 titles, all M releases, each sold at 1,612 copies. Among t top 20 were **X-Men** (2,6[illegible]d copies), **Amazing Spider-Man** (2,958), **Fantastic Four** (2,400) and **Thor** (1,705).

The first DC title didn't appear on the list until number 21. It was **Warlord** (1,611 copies). The next DC title, **DC Comics Presents**, was 29th with sales of 1,164 copies. Most of the other DC comics fell between 30th and 60th on the list, including **Superman** (32nd place, 1,025 copies), **Action** (35th, 947), **Wonder Woman** (42nd, 753) and **Super Friends** (53rd, 271).

DC's worst seller, among the fans, was **Ghosts** (61th, 190). Marvel's worst were **Sgt. Fury** (63rd, 168) and the **Crazy** black-and-white humor magazine (73rd, 71).

Three Warren titles were on the **TCR** list. **Eerie** placed 50th with 313 copies sold; **Creepy** was 52nd with 308 copies sold and **Warren Presents: The Rook** placed 56th with sales of 225 copies.

Quite frankly, I expected the Warren books to have done better among the fans whose purchases are reflected in this sales list. What the Warren books' low sales among the fans means is that, on a percentage basis, the Warren books garner a bigger portion of their sales from newsstands and other traditional non-fan outlets than do books from Marvel or DC.

Now whether that situation is better or worse for Warren is something that's fair game for interpretation. *My guess* is that it is better to get the bulk of your sales from the traditional outlets rather than these fan shops. *My guess* is that the traditional outlets, buoyed by the sales of the other mass-circulation magazines like **Time**, **Playboy** and whatever, are more reliable than the fan shops. The fan shops, a relatively recent phenomenon, are generally shoestring, fly-by-night, as-the-spirit-moved-the-proprietor operations. They've yet to compete for business in economic down times. Newsstands, no matter how shakily, seem to survive. I'm not so sure comic shops can stand the test of time.

On the other hand, both DC and Marvel have actively courted the 300 or so comic shops that have sprung up. In fact, according to sources at both Marvel and DC, these comic shops sometimes account for double-digit percentages of a comic book's total retail sales. Marvel's sales to these shops—called direct sales, because no returns of unsold books are allowed, which is not the case with normal distributors—have become so sophisticated the company now codes the covers to differentiate between comic-shop sales and normal distributor sales.

With all this in mind, it's not surprising to see all the Gold Key and Charlton books fill up the last 30 or so positions in the **TCR** listing. Since both companies are almost exclusively newsstand-oriented, their sales in comic shops would naturally be lower. Some Gold Key titles that only sold 50 or 60 copies through these fan outlets are, in fact, among the few good sellers on the newsstands.

As future **TCR** listings are compiled and published, I'll keep you up to date on any intriguing developments. In the meantime, however, I urge you to subscribe to **TCR** in support of the fanzine's efforts in this category. But ignore everything else in the magazine because, once you get past the comic-sales lists, the material is hardly worth your time.

The Comic Reader, a monthly, is $9 a year ($4.75 for six issues) from Street Enterprises, Post Office Box 225, Menomonee Falls, Wis. 53051. Sample copies are $1 each.

The opinions expressed on this page are exclusively those of Mr. Brancatelli. As such, they may not reflect the thinking of Warren Publishing Company's management or employees.

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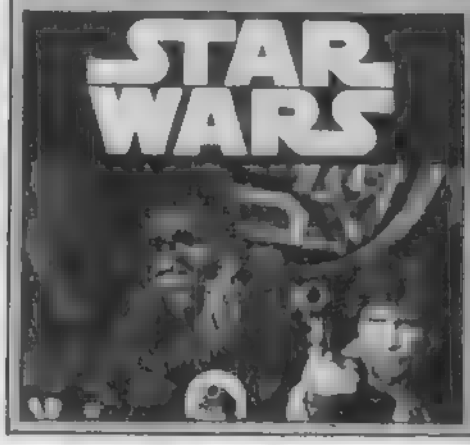

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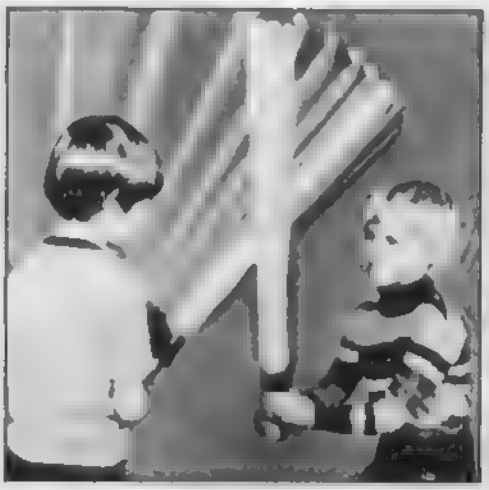

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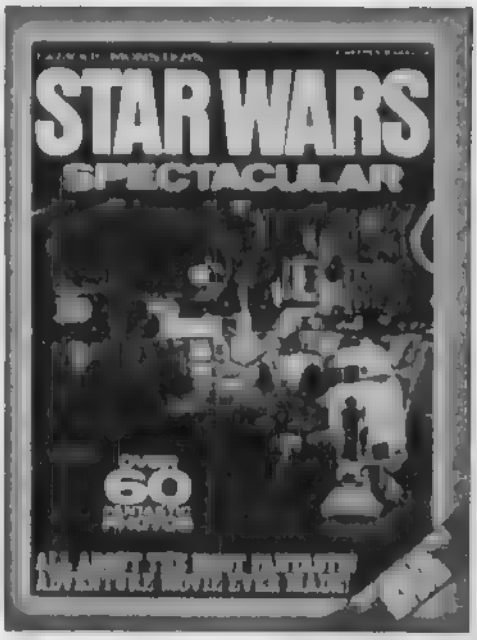

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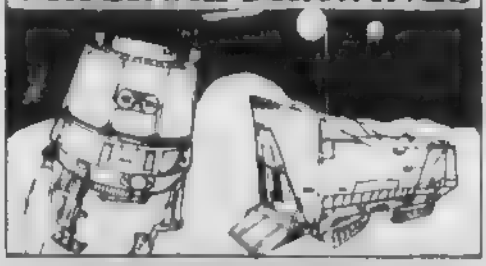

Joe Johnston's drawings for Star Wars are pulled together in this 8½"x 11" paperback which is chock full of black and white sketches of every conceivable machine, pod, ship, weapon and Death Star itself. The drawings are the initial designs for all the models from the film with commentary about the problems of each sketch! 96 pages. #26028/ $4.95

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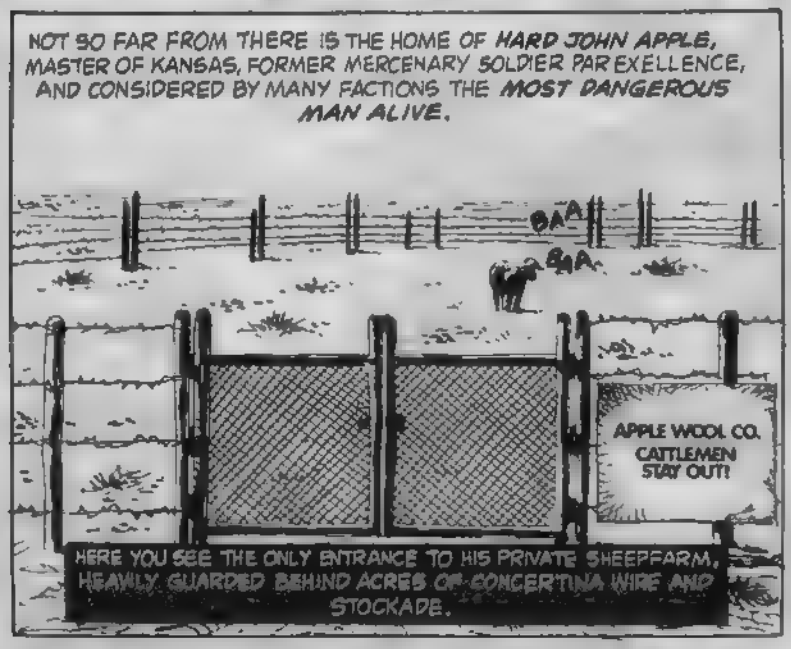
To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

PLAINLANDS .. PARCHED, BARREN, INHOSPITABLE TO THE HARDIEST OF BREEDS. LITTLE GROWS IN THIS BURNT AND DUST-CHOKED DESERT; FOOD AND WATER, WHEN AVAILABLE, IS FOUGHT OVER BITTERLY BY MAN AND ANIMAL ALIKE.
THIS IS KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, 15 YEARS AFTER THE *HOLY-COST*. YOU ARE LOOKING AT IT FROM ACROSS THE KANSAS RIVER.


NOT SO FAR FROM THERE IS THE HOME OF *HARD JOHN APPLE*, MASTER OF KANSAS, FORMER MERCENARY SOLDIER PAR EXELLENCE, AND CONSIDERED BY MANY FACTIONS THE *MOST DANGEROUS MAN ALIVE*.
BAA
BAA
APPLE WOOL CO.
CATTLEMEN
STAY OUT!
HERE YOU SEE THE ONLY ENTRANCE TO HIS PRIVATE SHEEPFARM, HEAVILY GUARDED BEHIND ACRES OF CONCERTINA WIRE AND STOCKADE.

ZIP
ZIP
ZIP

FOR THOSE WHO'VE COME TO FEAR HARD JOHN APPLE, NEWS OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM MILITARY AFFAIRS CAME AS A SURPRISE BLESSING.
BUT *BELOW* THE SURFACE OF KANSAS, EVIDENCE EXISTS THAT HARD JOHN IS NOT ENTIRELY RESIGNED TO INNOCUOUS FARMING...EVIDENCE THAT SUGGESTS THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ALIVE IS *FAR* MORE DANGEROUS THAN ANYONE GUESSED.

MIGOSH, I THINK I'M *DROWNING!*
BLUB!

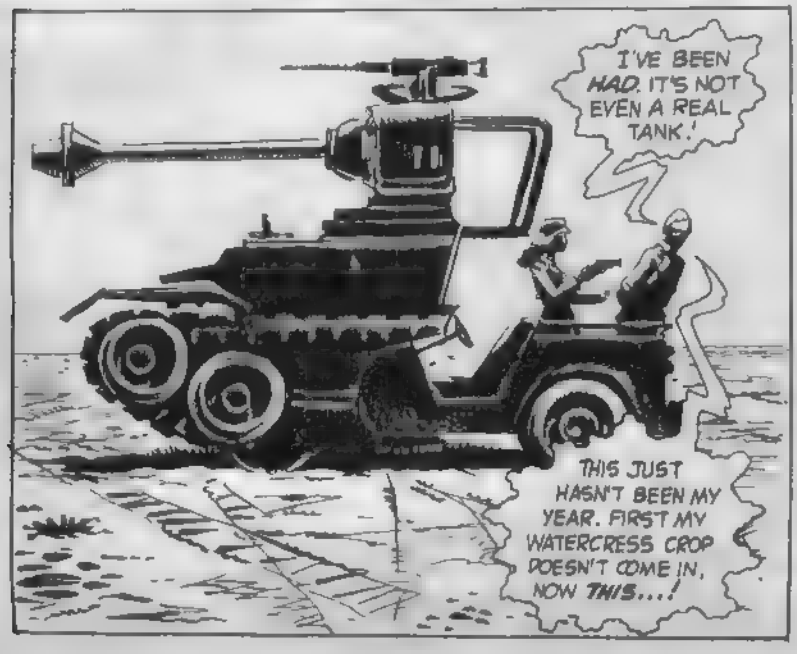
Hard John's
NUCLEAR
Hit Parade
LIMITED ENGAGEMENT
LIMITED ENGAGEMENT
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! STOP SHOOTING!
I GIVE UP ALREADY!
SHEE!
CLIMB OUT OF THAT HOLE AND KEEP YOUR HANDS WHERE I CAN SEE THEM!
NO FUNNY BUSINESS, OR I PLANT A CANNON-SHELL IN YOUR NAVEL!
KANSAS CITY BOMBER

WHA? A GIRL! A BLINKING FEMALE!
OH, MY ACHING BACK!
ARE YOU INJURED?

YES I'M INJURED! WHAT'S THE IDEA, CHASING ME ALL OVER THE PLAINS WITH THAT BUFFALO?
LOOK WHAT YOU DID TO MY TRUCK!
AND LOOK AT ME! MERCIFUL MANDRAKE, LOOK AT ME!!

YOU SEEM HEALTHY TO ME. WHERE ARE YOU INJURED?
HUH? AH, HERE. YOU HAVE TO LOOK CLOSER...!
GOSH IT HURTS.

PTU PTU! YOU'RE ONLY MAKING THINGS WORSE FOR YOURSELF!
THIS IS HARD JOHN APPLE YOU'RE FOOLING WITH...!
MASTER OF KANSAS! SCOURGE OF CATLICK'S EVERYWHERE!


I'VE BEEN HAD. IT'S NOT EVEN A REAL TANK!
THIS JUST HASN'T BEEN MY YEAR. FIRST MY WATERCRESS CROP DOESN'T COME IN, NOW THIS...!

YOU SEEM A COLORFUL CHARACTER, COMRADE. IT WILL BE A PITY TO SHOOT YOU AFTER WE'VE TAKEN OVER.
COMRADE?

JUST WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU?
COL TARARA [redacted] ADVANCE SCOUT FOR THE RED THREAT ARMY, AT YOUR SERVICE.

WE ARE ATTACKING YOUR BORDERS FROM THE NORTH, THROUGH ALASKA.
YOU DON'T TELL ME.
IT IS OUR INTENTION TO DESTROY THE CORRUPT RELIGICO SYSTEMS OF THE WORLD AND RESTORE OUR PRECIOUS POLITICS.

WE NUMBER IN THE HUNDREDS. YOU HAVE NO CHANCE.
COMRADE, YOU ARE WELCOME TO TAKE THIS COUNTRY ANYWAY YOU CAN. I WON'T STAND IN YOUR WAY. ME, I GOT OTHER INTERESTS.
SO IF YOU'LL JUST UNLOCK THESE CUFFS, I'LL BE ON MY WAY...!

FIRST I WILL KNOW THE LOCATION OF YOUR COMPANY, ITS STRENGTH AND ITS WEAPONRY.
YOU RE NOT LISTENING! I'M NOT IN ANYBODY'S ARMY ANYMORE! I LIVE ALONE!
THE LOCATION.
I FORGET

YOU WILL TELL ME ALL RIGHT.
ARE YOU IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION?
WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?! WHY DO YOU ASK ME THAT?!

BECAUSE WE ARE GOING FOR A FAST WALK!
EAST!
EAST!
GO EAST!

a bit of History:

WHAT IS KNOWN OF THE ORIGIN OF THE *HOLY-COST* IS THAT IT BEGAN IN MAY, 1986, AND THAT NO COUNTRY WILL ADMIT TO *STARTING* IT. AS THE POSTWAR SATIRIST, TOM COLLINS, PUTS IT: "NOBODY PUSHED A BUTTON; WE HAVE ALL BEEN SCORCHED BY FEROCIOUS *SUNSPOT* ACTIVITY."

WHATEVER THE CAUSE, THE HOLY-COST CONTINUED FOR 34 YEARS, EVENTUALLY TRIMMING THE EARTH'S POPULATION TO A BLEAK 2½ MILLION CITIZENS. THE HOLY-COST ENDED... PETERED OUT REALLY... WITH THE LAUNCHING OF THE WORLD'S LAST BALLISTIC MISSILES ON APRIL 1ST, 2020.

WELL, NOT *QUITE* THE LAST MISSILES. BUT WE'RE GETTING AHEAD OF OURSELVES.

ME CHILLUN, I WILL LIFT YOUSE M.SERABLE DREGS FROM DIS HOLY-COST! ALL I ASK IS YER *BLIND OBEDIENCE!*

ME CHILLUN, I HAVE HERE A MESSAGE FROM *GOD!* HE SEZ DE *SECOND-COMING* NEAR!

POLITICAL SYSTEMS EVERYWHERE COLLAPSED AS GREATER NUMBERS OF PEOPLE TURNED TO *RELIGION* FOR GUIDANCE IN WHAT SEEMED EARTH'S FINAL HOUR. FOR *CATLICKS*, SOLACE COULD BE FOUND IN THE WORDS OF *HOLY ROLLO:*

HOLY ROLLO WAS A MAN OF INCREDIBLE PERSUASION WHO WISHED TO SEE CATLICKISM AS THE *SOLE* ADMINSTRATIVE POWER IN THE WORLD. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, HE DECIDED TO *STIR UP* HIS CONGREGATION AGAINST THE OTHER RELIGIONS.

HE SEZ HE WILL FIND FAVOR ONLY IN THOSE FOLKS WHO ARE ON *TOP* WHEN HE ARRIVES, ALL *OTHERS* WILL GO TO *HELL!*

SO SHAKE A LEG! YOU WANNA BE ON *TOP*, DON'TCHA?

THE PLOY SUCCEEDED. GOOD CATLICKS WHO FEARED THEY WOULDN'T GET A SEAT IN HEAVEN WHEN *DOOMSDAY* CAME BEGAN A DEADLY STRUGGLE AGAINST ALL *RIVAL* SECTS. AT *ANY PRICE, CATLICKS HAD* TO BE *ON TOP* WHEN THE SECOND-COMING CAME.

PROCLAMATION

BY ORDER OF HIS MOST CATLICK

HOLY ROLLO

PROTS MUS' DIE
MOOZLUMS MUS' DIE
HIMDOOZ MUS' DIE
DAVIDISTS MUS' DIE
ATHEICKS MUS' DIE
LOOFRANS MUS' DIE
MESSDISTS MUS' DIE
BOODIES MUS' DIE
SINUSTOLOGISTS MUS' DIE
[illegible] MUS' DIE

BUT THE OTHER RELIGIOUS SECTS HAD THEIR *OWN* IDEAS, AND BEING *EXTERMINATED* WAS NOT AMONG THEM.

FOR THOSE SECTS THAT COULD AFFORD THEM, HIGHLY SKILLED *MERCENARY SOLDIERS* WERE HIRED TO DEFEND THEIR FAITHS.

ONE OF THESE, A FREELANCER WORKING FOR THE PROTS, WAS *HARD JOHN APPLE.*

EVEN BEFORE HE WAS OUT OF HIS TEENS, *HARD JOHN APPLE* HAD BECOME A LEGEND AMONG HIS CONTEMPORARIES AND HIS EXPLOITS ARE THE TALK OF FOUR CONTINENTS.

BUT NOTHING IS THE EVENT THAT CHANGED HIS LIFE FOREVER CONCERNING HIS CAPTURE OF THE NOTORIOUS CATLICK TERRORIST *HEMLOCK ZINGER*.

I'LL BE LEAVING YOU NOW, MR ZINGER. ANY LAST WORDS BEFORE I BLOW YOU UP?

IF I DIE, THE *SECRET* DIES WITH ME.

SET ME FREE AND I'LL TELL YOU HOW TO BECOME A *MASTER OF* [redacted]

SOME WEEKS LATER, HARD JOHN IS INVITED TO A [illegible] MEETING OF THE PROT LEADERS.

LISSEN, HARD JOHN WE'RE GONNA DIVVY THE U.S.

I'LL TAKE KANSAS.

KANSAS? LIKE THE *STATE* KANSAS? YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN'...

LOTTA *OPPORTUNITY* OUT KANSAS WAY REMINDS ME OF HOME... ALL THEM FAR-OUT MOUNTAINS, GREEN FIELDS, AMBER WAVES OF GRAIN...

OBVIOUSLY, THE PROT LEADERS THOUGHT [illegible] HAS *NEVER* BEEN TO KANSAS...

BUT WHAT WILL YOU *DO* OUT THERE?

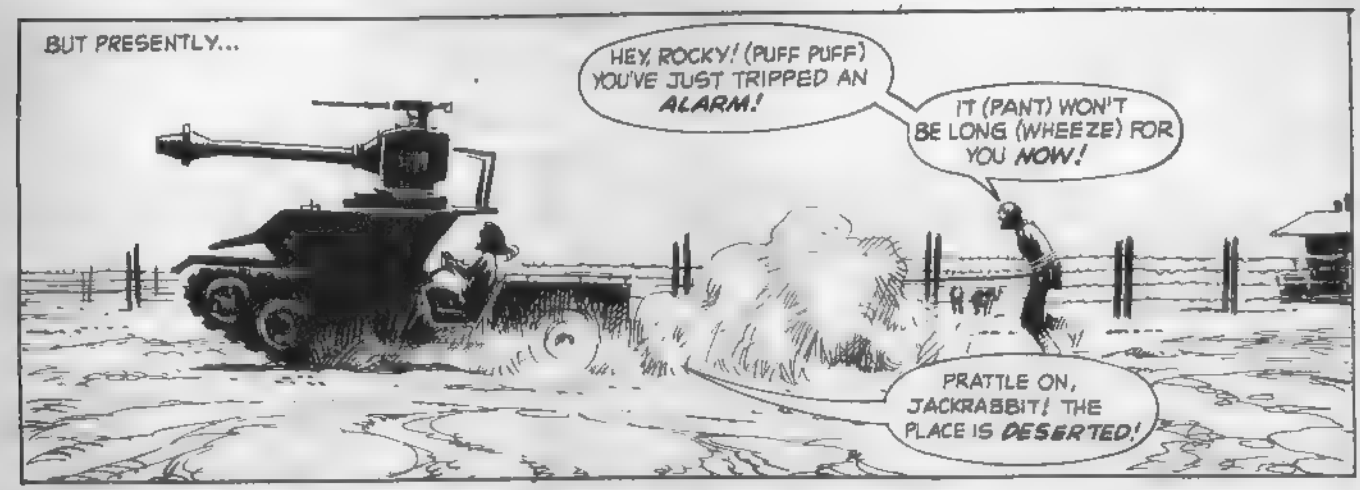
GOING TO SETTLE DOWN. *RETIRE*- LIKE RAISE SHEEP MAYBE. AND GROW MY OWN LAMBCHOPS.

IS *YOURS*

I'LL *TAKE* IT.

THE PROT LEADERS WERE PREPARED TO GIVE HARD JOHN THE ENTIRE EASTERN SEABOARD, AND ALL HE WANTED WAS A DUST BOWL CALLED *KANSAS*. THEY AGREED HE WAS *MAD*, AND WERE *HAPPY* TO SEND HIM THERE.

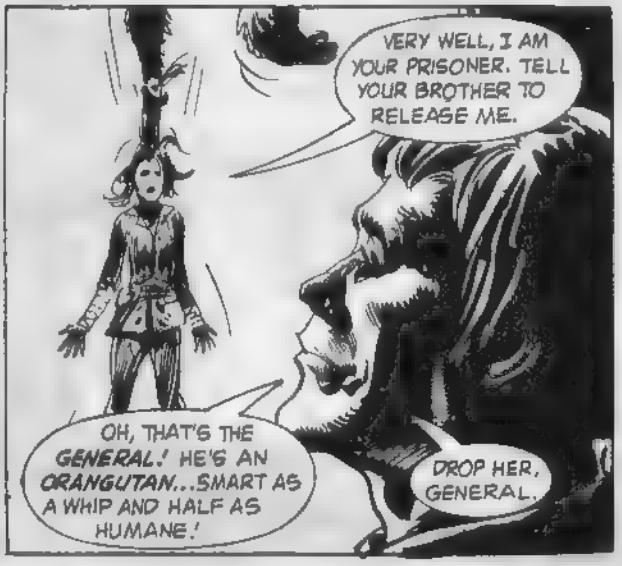
AND THAT, DEAR READER, WAS THE GREATEST MISTAKE OF THE POST WAR ERA

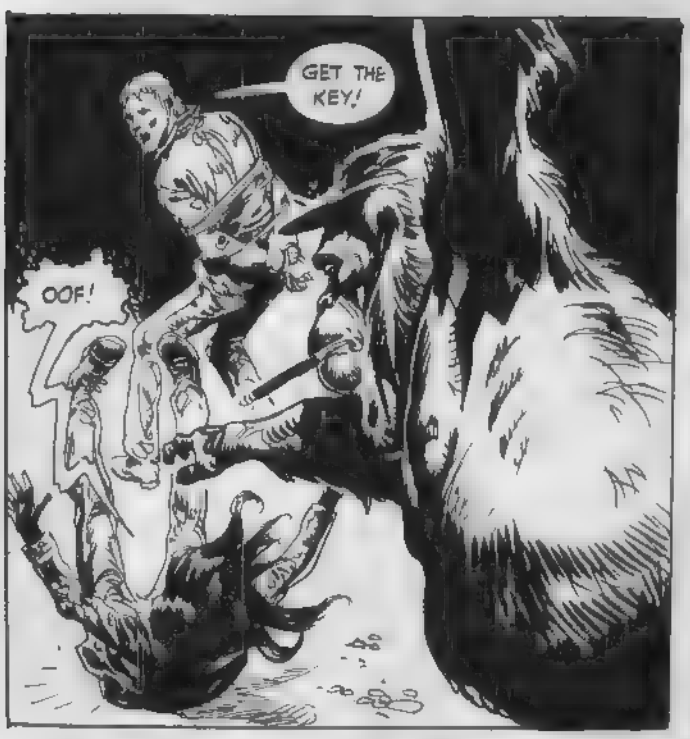

BUT PRESENTLY...
HEY, ROCKY! (PUFF PUFF) YOU'VE JUST TRIPPED AN ALARM!
IT (PANT) WON'T BE LONG (WHEEZE) FOR YOU NOW!
PRATTLE ON, JACKRABBIT! THE PLACE IS DESERTED!

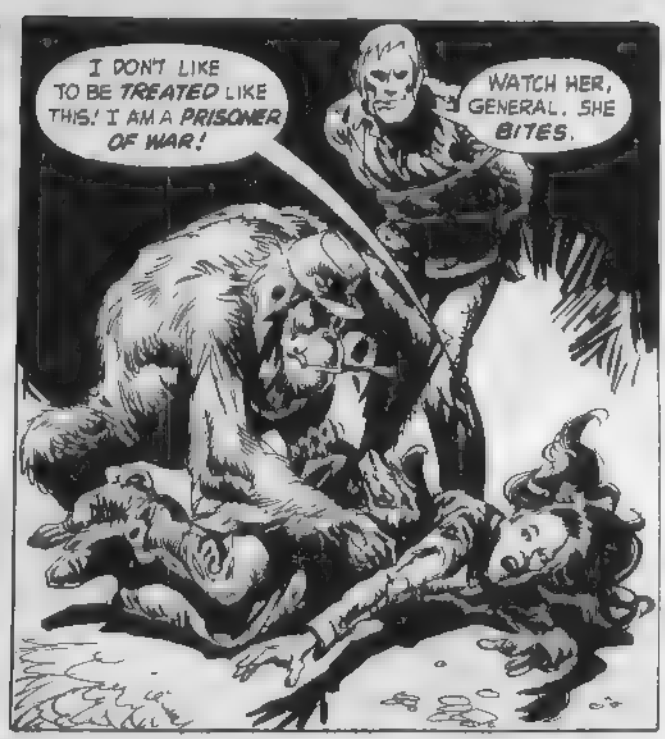
NOW TO MAKE A QUICK LEAP INTO THE JEEP...

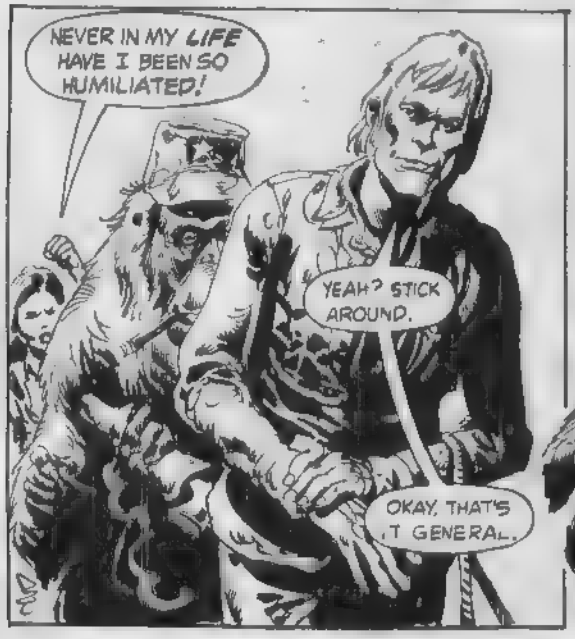
...AND HIT THE BRAKES!
SCREEEECH

YOU SAID YOU LIVED ALONE.
DON'T WE ALL, REALLY, WITHIN OURSELVES?


VERY WELL, I AM YOUR PRISONER. TELL YOUR BROTHER TO RELEASE ME.
OH, THAT'S THE GENERAL! HE'S AN ORANGUTAN...SMART AS A WHIP AND HALF AS HUMANE!
DROP HER, GENERAL.

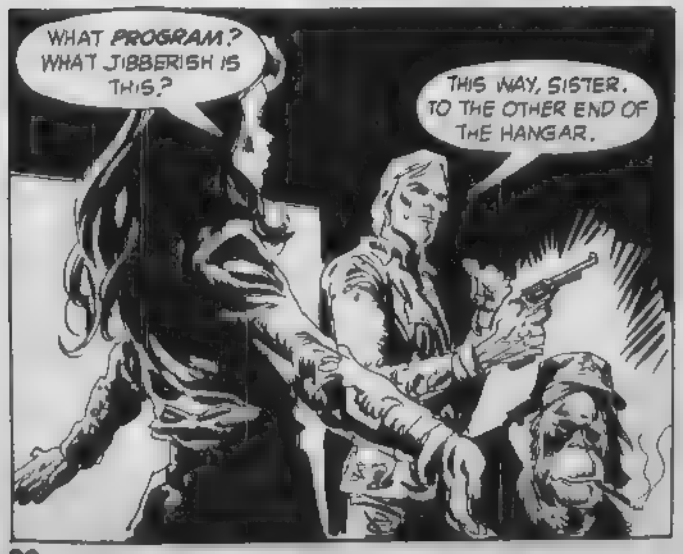

GET THE KEY!
OOF!


I DON'T LIKE TO BE TREATED LIKE THIS! I AM A PRISONER OF WAR!
WATCH HER, GENERAL. SHE BITES.


NEVER IN MY LIFE HAVE I BEEN SO HUMILIATED!
YEAH? STICK AROUND.
OKAY, THAT'S IT GENERAL.

?
CALLS HERSELF TARARA BOOMDEYOV...
HER FRIENDS MIGHT FOLLOW HER HERE. WE'LL HAVE TO ACCELERATE THE PROGRAM.

GRRR
I DON'T LIKE IT ANY BETTER THAN YOU.
MAYBE SHE CAN HELP US WITH THE PROGRAM. YOU'RE ALWAYS COMPLAINING HOW OVERWORKED YOU ARE.


WHAT PROGRAM? WHAT JIBBERISH IS THIS?
THIS WAY, SISTER. TO THE OTHER END OF THE HANGAR.

SPASKY! ARE THOSE...
THEM'S NUKES, BABY. 1250 MINUTEMAN NUCLEAR MISSILES... ARMED, FUELED, AND RARIN' TO GO!
YOU HAVE YOUR OWN MISSILE BASE?
HARD JOHN'S NUCLEAR HIT PARADE!

I THOUGHT ALL THE BOMBS WENT UP IN THE HOLY-COST.

THAT'S WHAT EVERYBODY THOUGHT. A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE, HEMLOCK ZINGER, TOLD ME ABOUT THESE.

C'MON, I'LL SHOW YOU THE CONTROLS. WE'LL TAKE THE ELEVATOR.

BUT...WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THEM?

WHAT ELSE DO YOU DO WITH NUKES? YOU DROP THEM ON PEOPLE! CHEE, WHAT A QUESTION.

YEARS AGO, THE TWO MEN ASSIGNED TO LAUNCH THESE MISSILES COULDN'T DECIDE IF THE LAUNCH ORDERS THEY RECEIVED WERE AUTHENTIC.

ONE WANTED TO LAUNCH THEM...THE OTHER DIDN'T. THEY ENDED UP SHOOTING EACH OTHER, AND THE NUKES NEVER LEFT THEIR SILOS.

AND HERE IT IS. THE BRAIN. THE CENTER OF THE WHOLE BASE.

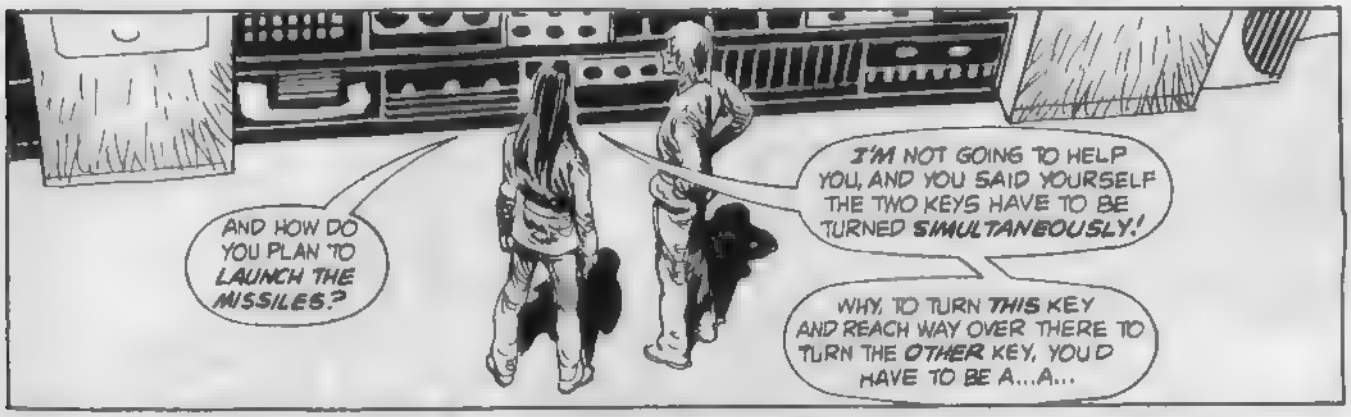
FEED THE SECRET CODE INTO THIS BANK, TURN THIS KEY AND THAT KEY SIMULTANEOUSLY, AND BOOM! EVERYTHING GOES. THIS PLACE INCLUDED.

THE GENERAL DOESN'T THINK I SHOULD BE TELLING YOU ALL THIS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I THINK IT'S A MAD IDEA! WE'RE JUST PICKING OURSELVES UP AFTER THE HOLY-COST AND YOU WANT TO END IT ALL FOREVER?!
WHY KILL EVERYONE?.. WHY KILL YOURSELF?

NO, I DON'T PLAN TO DIE. WHEN THE NUKES GO UP, I'M GOING TO BE IN THE DEEPEST HOLE I CAN FIND... FAR, FAR AWAY FROM THIS PLACE.
AND WHEN I COME OUT...BINGO! EARTH IS MINE!


AND HOW DO YOU PLAN TO LAUNCH THE MISSILES?
I'M NOT GOING TO HELP YOU, AND YOU SAID YOURSELF THE TWO KEYS HAVE TO BE TURNED SIMULTANEOUSLY!
WHY, TO TURN THIS KEY AND REACH WAY OVER THERE TO TURN THE OTHER KEY, YOU'D HAVE TO BE A...A...

AN ORANGUTAN?
AIR FORCE MANUAL

MEANWHILE, AT PROT HEADQUARTERS...
GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE BEEN BETRAYED!
INFORMATION HAS COME TO ME THAT HARD JOHN APPLE HAS COME TO POSSESS A NUMBER OF NUCLEAR MISSILES AND IS PLANNING TO USE THEM AGAINST US!
WE ARE INDEBTED TO MR. HEMLOCK ZINGER, A RECENT CONVERT TO THE PROT RELIGION, FOR THIS INTELLIGENCE.
YOUR ORDERS: USE EVERY MAN AND MACHINE WE HAVE, BUT KILL HARD JOHN APPLE!!

RESUME. THE HOLY-COST--THE WORLD WAR THAT NEARLY ENDED EVERBODY--IS 15 YEARS PAST, YET AMAZINGLY, WAR PERSISTS. THE VALUES BEING FOUGHT OVER ARE CHANGED, AND THERE ARE FEWER PEOPLE TO FIGHT OVER THEM, BUT IT'S WAR AND WAR'S STILL THE SAME.

ON ONE SIDE WE HAVE ***HARD JOHN APPLE***, RETIRED PROT MERCENARY SOLDIER AND POSSESSOR OF ***1250 TACTICAL NUCLEAR MISSILES***, WHO IS, FOR REASONS OF HIS OWN, PLANNING TO FINISH THE JOB THE HOLY-COST DID NOT, I.E., ***DESTROY MANKIND.***

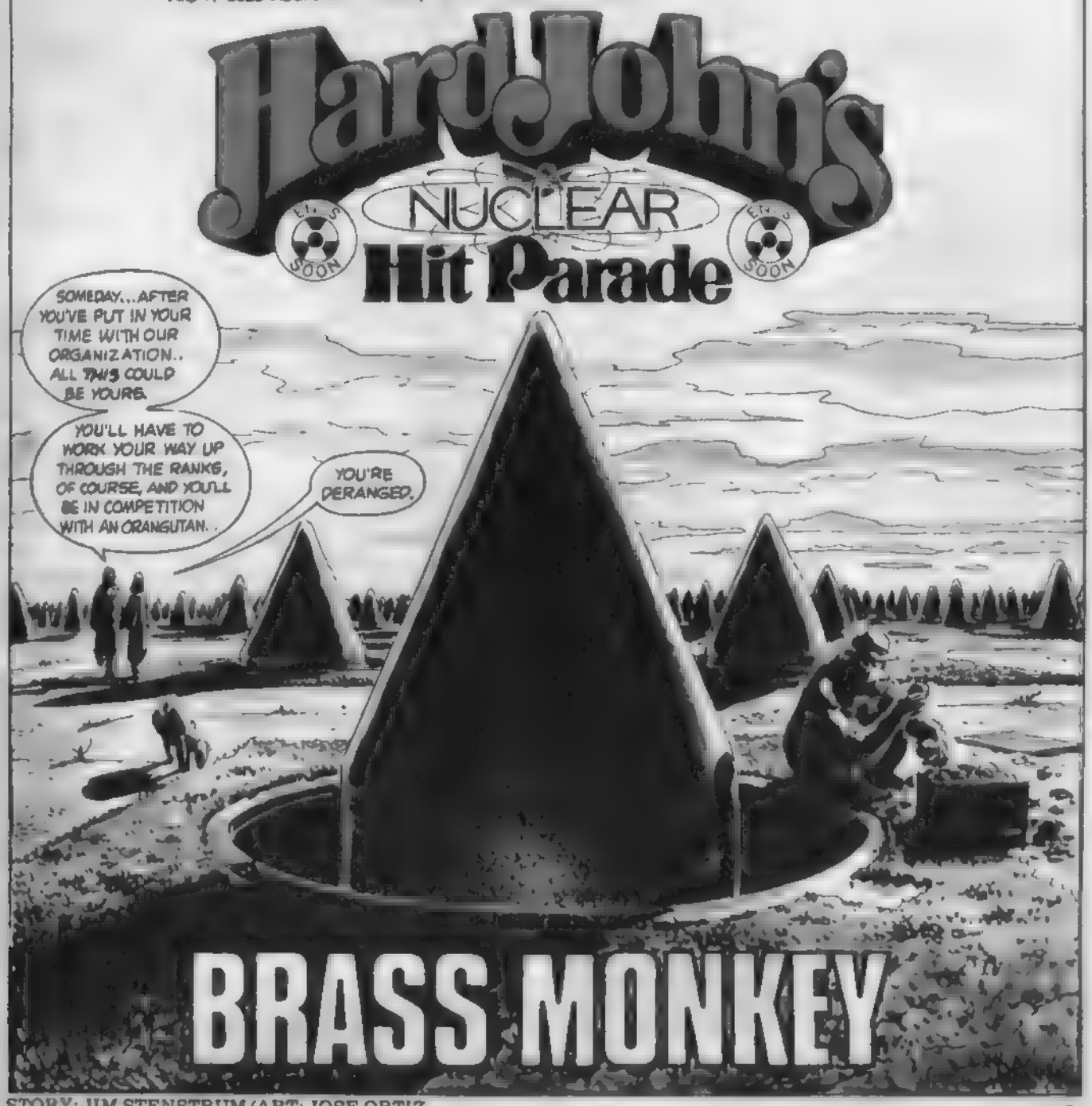
AIDING HIM IN THIS IS ***THE GENERAL***, THE PRECOCIOUS ORANGUTAN, TRAINED TO PERFORM THE ***SUICIDAL*** TASK OF LAUNCHING THE WORLD-WRECKING MISSILES.

ON ANOTHER SIDE IS ***TARARA BOOMDEYOV***, SOLE ADVANCE SCOUT FOR A MASSIVE ***RED THREAT*** INVASIONARY FORCE, MAKING ITS WAY TO THE UNITED STATES ALONG THE ALASKA PIPELINE, WHO HAS BECOME HARD JOHN'S PRISONER AND IS JUST NOW LEARNING THE EXTENT OF HIS DOOMSDAY SCHEME.

MEANWHILE, THE ***PROTS***, BETRAYED BY THEIR FORMER MERCENARY, HAVE ORDERED AN ALL-OUT EFFORT TO ***KILL*** HARD JOHN BEFORE HE CAN RELEASE THE MISSILES.

LASTLY WE HAVE THE ***CATLICKS***, HARD JOHN'S HATED ENEMIES, WHO ARE THE ONLY FACTION THAT BELIEVES HARD JOHN HAS REALLY BECOME A SHEEPHERDER, BUT WOULD STILL KILL HIM IF THEY COULD TO GET AHOLD OF HIS SHEEP.

AND IT GOES ROUND AND ROUND, AND IT COMES OUT HERE...



STORY: JIM STENSTRUM/ART: JOSE ORTIZ

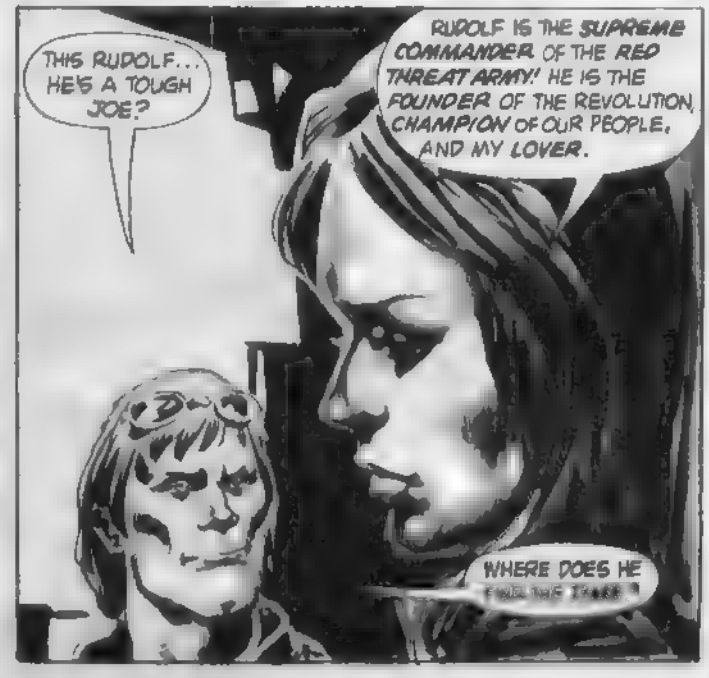
BUT YOU'RE *INTERESTED*, RIGHT? THIS PLAN OF MINE, TO SEND UP ALL THE MISSILES AND TAKE OVER THE WORLD FOR MYSELF, IS SO *WILDLY* SPECTACULAR YOU'RE *FASCINATED* TO SEE HOW CLOSE I CAN COME TO DOING IT.
I AM ONLY CONFUSED AS TO WHY *ANYONE* WOULD WANT TO BLOW UP THE WORLD.

YOU'RE STILL A CHILD. YOU CAN'T KNOW HOW MANY ENEMIES A MAN CAN ACCRUE IN A LIFETIME. HOW MANY *I'VE* ACCRUED...
HOW MANY?
YOU'D THINK I WAS *MAD*...
THEN YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE.

I AM CONVINCED THERE HAS BEEN A CONSPIRACY TO KILL ME EVER SINCE I CAME TO KANSAS 15 YEARS AGO! A CONSPIRACY CONSISTING OF *EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD* ON THIS EARTH, *ALL* IN CAHOOTS TO *RUB ME OUT!*
UH OH.

I'M *SURVIVING*, THE ONLY WAY I CAN. I'VE GOT TO HIT *THEM* BEFORE THEY GET TO *ME!* THAT'S WHY I GOTTA *NUKE* THEM!
OLGA KORBUT! YOU ARE AN AUTHENTIC *COO-COO!*
LET ME GO! HELP! HELP!

EASY. REMEMBER THE NEIGHBORS.
WHEN *RUDOLF* SEES HOW YOU HAVE TREATED ME, HE WILL THROTTLE YOU AND YOUR MONKEY AND THROW YOU BOTH TO HIS *SOLDIERS!*


THIS RUDOLF... HE'S A TOUGH JOE?
RUDOLF IS THE *SUPREME COMMANDER* OF THE *RED THREAT ARMY!* HE IS THE *FOUNDER* OF THE REVOLUTION, *CHAMPION* OF OUR PEOPLE, AND MY *LOVER*.
WHERE DOES HE

YOU LAUGH! WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF LOYALTY AND COMPASSION? YOU HAVEN'T AN OUNCE OF EITHER YOURSELF.

DOES THAT APE FRIEND OF YOURS FOR INSTANCE, HAVE ANY IDEA THAT YOUR PLAN WILL BE *SUICIDE* FOR HIM?

SURE, I THINK SO. WE DIDN'T GET INTO ANY LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS ABOUT IT, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.

WHERE DID YOU FIND HIM?

THE GENERAL? I PUT AN AD IN THE PAPER.

THE *TRUTH*.

THAT *IS* THE TRUTH. I NEEDED AN EXCEPTIONALLY SMART ORANGUTAN TO LAUNCH THE MISSILES, AND I REASONED THAT ONLY A REALLY SMART ORANGUTAN WOULD READ THE WANT ADS.

BUT ENOUGH OF THAT. HOW ABOUT GIVING ME A HAND WITH SOMETHING?

FORGET IT. I WON'T HELP YOU WITH YOUR NUTSY SCHEME.

I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE YOU WITH THE GENERAL, THEN. AND I WARN YOU... HE'S USUALLY VERY ROUGH WHEN HE SEDUCES OUR PRISONERS.

SEDUCE...? ER...PERHAPS I *WILL* GIVE YOU A HAND AFTER ALL.

I SEE YOU! INTO THE *ORANGES* AGAIN!

WHY CAN'T YOU EAT *SAGEBRUSH* LIKE ALL THE OTHER ANIMALS IN THIS ZOO?

OOH OOOH?

NO. THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE OF PLANS. I'M TAKING THE DAME WITH ME. I WANT YOU TO WATCH THE STORE.

OOOH OHHH!

I *KNOW* I PROMISED YOU COULD COME ALONG, BUT NOW I WANT YOU TO *STAY*. *I DON'T NEED YOU!* STRAIGHT?

...NO, COME ON, YOU *KNOW* WHAT I MEAN.

OH, *DAMMIT*.

SH--?

SHE--?

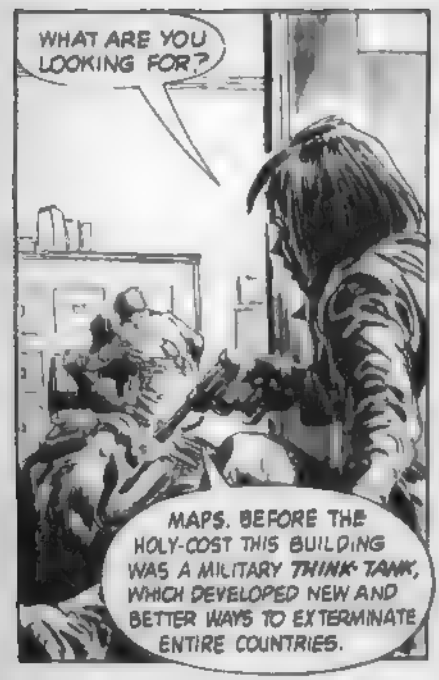
SHEEP?

SHEEP DELIVERY FOR THE CATLICK BIG SHOTS.
SHEEP! LAMBCHOPS ON THE HOOF!
MMM--MMM!

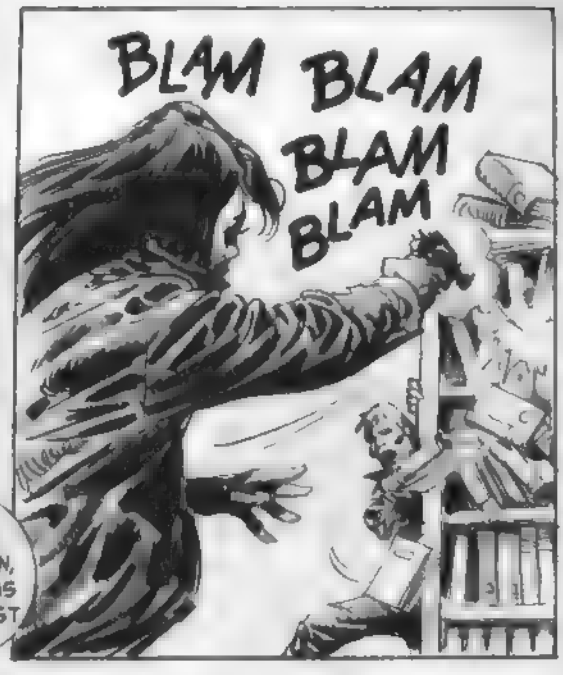
OH BOY! JUST WAIT HERE WHILE I CHECK THIS WITH INSIDE.
NO, NO, NO! THIS IS A SURPRISE SHEEP GIFT!...FROM HOLLY ROLLO HIMSELF! YOU'LL SPOIL THE SURPRISE!
OH, YEAH. RIGHT. GO RIGHT IN.

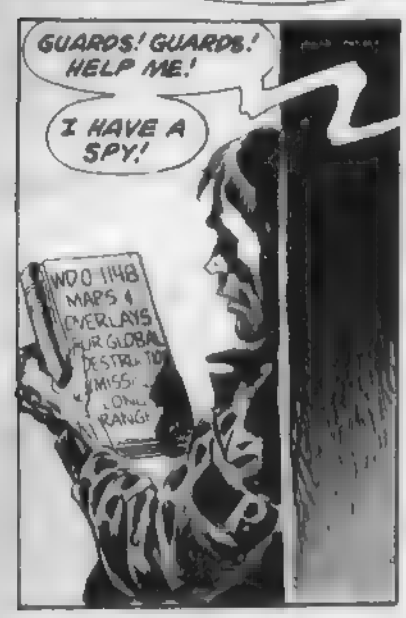
WELL, IT WORKED. ALTHOUGH I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT SIGNIFICANCE THIS COSTUME HAS TO DO WITH IT. IT'S CUMBERSOME...NOT FUNCTIONAL.
FINE. NEXT TIME I'LL WEAR THE BO PEEP OUTFIT AND YOU TRY CRAWLING ON YOUR KNEES FOR A HALF MILE!
LET'S GO. I THINK IT'S THIS WAY.

MINUTES LATER, HARD JOHN AND TARARA HAVE MADE THEIR WAY TO A SECURED SECTOR OF THE BUILDING.
MAPS AND CHA
NO
DMITTANCE
SWAT!

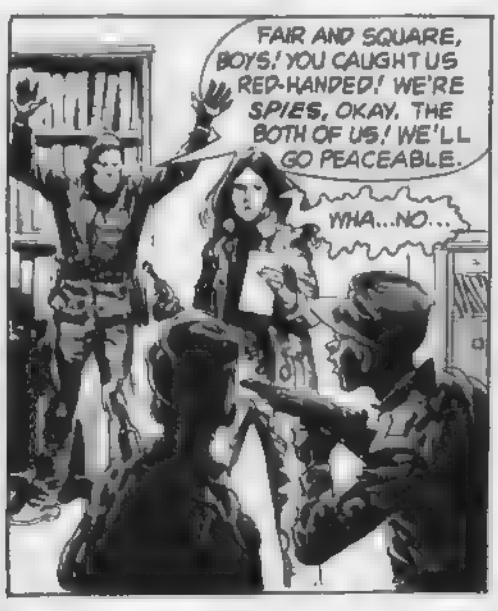

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
MAPS. BEFORE THE HOLY-COST THIS BUILDING WAS A MILITARY THINK-TANK, WHICH DEVELOPED NEW AND BETTER WAYS TO EXTERMINATE ENTIRE COUNTRIES.

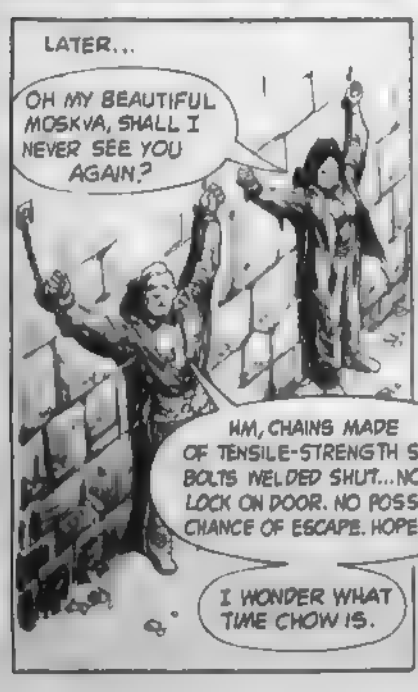
THE RIGHT MAPS WILL TELL ME WHERE TO SEND MY MISSILES WITHOUT A CHANCE OF WASTING THEM--OOP.
THE WORLD HAS GONE ON TOO LONG TO BE DESTROYED BY ONE MAN, JOHN APPLE. AND MEN AS DANGEROUS AS YOU MUST BE SHOT ON SIGHT.


BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

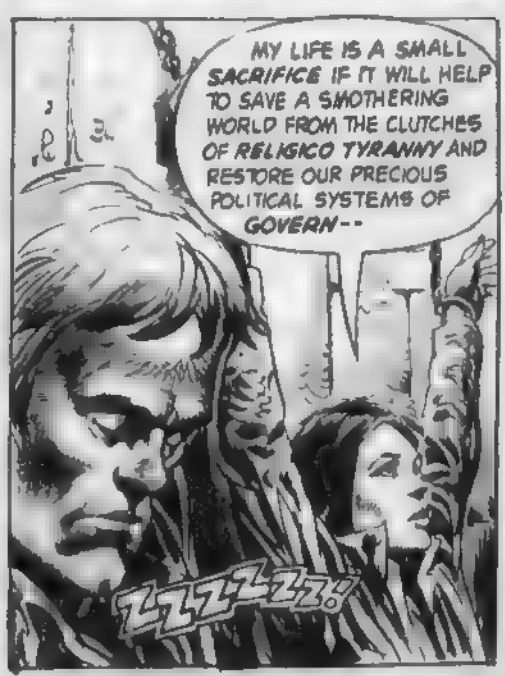

GUARDS! GUARDS! HELP ME!
I HAVE A SPY!

HERE, COMRADE! CATCH!


FAIR AND SQUARE, BOYS! YOU CAUGHT US RED-HANDED! WE'RE SPIES, OKAY, THE BOTH OF US! WE'LL GO PEACEABLE.
WHA...NO...


LATER...
OH MY BEAUTIFUL MOSKVA, SHALL I NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN?
HM, CHAINS MADE OF TENSILE-STRENGTH STEEL... BOLTS WELDED SHUT...NO INSIDE LOCK ON DOOR. NO POSSIBLE CHANCE OF ESCAPE. HOPELESS.
I WONDER WHAT TIME CHOW IS.

RUDOLF WOULD KNOW HOW TO ESCAPE LIKE SO!
SNAP
MAYBE SO, BUT I DON'T THINK RUDOLF WOULD HAVE GOTTEN ME INTO THIS FIX TO BEGIN WITH. IT TAKES A DAME.


MY LIFE IS A SMALL SACRIFICE IF IT WILL HELP TO SAVE A SMOTHERING WORLD FROM THE CLUTCHES OF RELIGICO TYRANNY AND RESTORE OUR PRECIOUS POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF GOVERN--
ZZZZZZZZ!

SLAM
RUDOLF! YOU'VE COME FOR ME AT LAST!
RUDOLF?

THAT'S YOUR BOYFRIEND? THAT'S RUDOLF??
WHY, HELL, THAT AIN'T NOBODY BUT HEMLOCK ZINGER... THE MOST RUTHLESS AND DESPICABLE MAN ON EARTH!
TARARA!... AND HARD JOHN APPLE! HOW INTERESTING TO FIND YOU TWO LIKE THIS.

RUDOLF, SET ME FREE! THIS MAN IS A NUTSY-FRUITSY!
PATIENCE, DARLING.
YOU'RE WITH THE RED THREATS NOW, ZINGER? S'MATTER, HAVE A FALLING OUT WITH THE CATLICKS?

NOTHING OF THE SORT. I STILL WORK FOR THE CATLICKS, AND I WORK FOR THE RED THREATS, AND FOR THE PROTS, AND A FEW OTHERS.
OF COURSE! PLAYING ALL THE SIDES, WAITING TO SEE WHO COMES OUT ON TOP. BUT THE ONLY WINNER IN THE END WILL BE YOU, RIGHT, ZINGER?

RUDOLF, PLEASE! TAKE ME AWAY FROM THIS MANIAC!
IN GOOD TIME, MY DEAR. I HAVEN'T DECIDED WHAT TO DO WITH YOU YET.
I THINK YOU'VE BEEN HAD, SISTER. HEMLOCK ZINGER HAS NO FRIENDS.. MALE, FEMALE, OR OTHERWISE. ZINGER ONLY USES PEOPLE, THEN THROWS THEM AWAY

HE'S RIGHT, TARARA. YOU'VE BEEN USED VERY BADLY.
I CREATED THE RED THREAT ARMY TO HELP ME WIN BACK MY MISSILES FROM HARD JOHN, THE SAME AS I'VE USED THE PROTS AND THE CATLICKS AND EVERYONE ELSE AGAINST HARD JOHN APPLE!
I WANT MY MISSILES BACK!

JUMPING ANACONDA! THE WHOLE WORLD REALLY WAS AGAINST ME! I WASN'T JUST GETTING PARANOID!
NOW THAT I HAVE YOU AT LAST, HARD JOHN, THE RELIGICO POWERS ARE NO LONGER IMPORTANT TO ME. THE PROTS AND THE CATLICKS AND THE RED THREATS CAN NOW FIGHT IT OUT AMONG THEMSELVES, AND WHAT'S LEFT I WILL TAKE OVER.

RUDOLF, NO... WE TRUSTED YOU! I TRUSTED YOU!
I'M SORRY, DEAR HEART, BUT SOMEHOW YOUR TRUST HAS NEVER MEANT A DAMN THING TO ME.
RIGHT NOW, THOUGH, IT'S TIME FOR A BIT OF MILD AMUSEMENT. I BELIEVE I WILL PERFORM ELECTIVE SURGERY ON EACH OF YOU.

WHAT WILL IT BE? PARING DOWN YOUR DIGESTIVE TRACT...REDUCING IT TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT YOU MUST EAT YOUR EVERY WAKING MOMENT OR DIE OF HUNGER?
OR PERHAPS YOU WOULD PREFER HAVING YOUR INNER EARS DUG OUT WITH A SPOON?
ZINGER, I KNOW YOU'RE ASKED THIS ALL THE TIME, BUT WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR IDEAS?

BLAST! AN ALARM! SOMEBODY HAS BROKEN INTO THIS SECTOR!
BREEEP
UNFORTUNATELY, I'LL HAVE TO ATTEND TO YOU BOTH LATER.
BREEP
WE'LL BE RIGHT HERE.

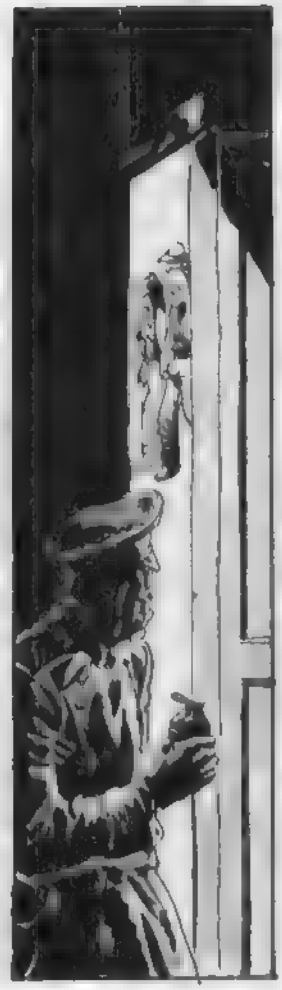
HEY, LISTEN, I'VE BEEN THINKING. MAYBE I WON'T BLOW UP THE EARTH AFTER ALL.
NOW THAT I KNOW ZINGER WAS BEHIND THIS WORLD-WIDE PLOT TO DESTROY ME, I CAN COPE. MAYBE I'LL EVEN JOIN YOUR REVOLUTION.

THERE IS NO REVOLUTION. DIDN'T YOU HEAR, IT WAS A LIE FROM THE BEGINNING.
PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE LET YOU DESTROY EVERYTHING. IT WOULD HAVE WASHED AWAY A LOT OF THE GARBAGE.
HOLD IT A MINUTE. DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING?

GENERAL! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I ORDERED YOU TO STAY BACK AT THE--

OOPS, HE'S GONE.
I HOPE HE DIDN'T TAKE ME SERIOUSLY.

GOD! MY GOD! GET THIS MONKEY OFF MY BACK!
WELL STAND STILL SO I CAN GET A SHOT AT HIM!
POW!
POW!
UGH!
OOMPH!
GENERAL, I TOLD YOU TO STAY AT HOME! YOU NEVER LISTEN TO ORDERS!
THIS IS INSUBORDINATION! I'LL HAVE YOUR STARS!
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT IF I CATCH YOU WITH ANOTHER ORANGE AGAIN, THERE'S GOING TO BE A GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL REAL QUICK!
OH YOU RIDICULOUS MONKEY. I'M HAPPY AS HELL TO SEE YOU, YOU KNOW THAT.
C'MON, EVERYBODY LET'S GO HOME



GOOD WORK, GENERAL! THROW IT TO ME AND I'LL TAKE THE BRUNT OF IT!

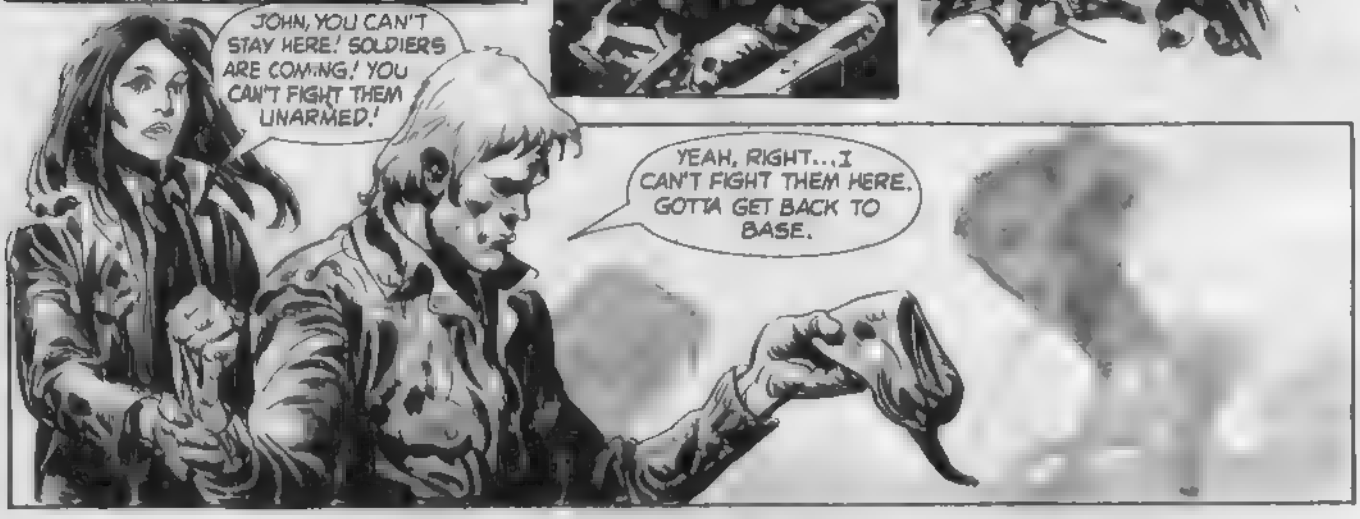
WHAT? AN ORANGE?

GENERAL! NO!!

BLAM

ZINGER?

ZINGER? YOU UNDER THERE?
COME ON OUT, YOU MURDERIN' MONSTER! I'M GONNA CUT YOUR HEART OUT!


JOHN, YOU CAN'T STAY HERE! SOLDIERS ARE COMING! YOU CAN'T FIGHT THEM UNARMED!
YEAH, RIGHT...I CAN'T FIGHT THEM HERE. GOTTA GET BACK TO BASE.

GET READY TO DUCK, WORLD...
'CAUSE TOMORROW MORNING...

...EVERYBODY WAKES UP TO A BAKED APPLE SERVED ON THEIR FRONT LAWNS!
WAIT UP, JOHN...!

YOU'RE GOING TO NEED HELP!

Hard John's NUCLEAR Hit Parade

LAST SHOW TODAY

LAST SHOW TODAY

SO WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE HOLY-COST HAS WIPED OUT MUCH OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION, DIVIDING THE SURVIVING POPULACE INTO DISTINCT AND FANATICAL RELIGIOUS SECTS.

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE MASTER TERRORIST, ***HEMLOCK ZINGER***, HAS SPENT THE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS PITTING THE WORLD'S ARMIES AGAINST ONE MAN, ***HARD JOHN APPLE***, ALL IN A GARGANTUAN EFFORT TO PRY FROM HIM THE LAST NUCLEAR MISSILES IN EXISTENCE.

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT HARD JOHN'S PRISONER AND CONSTANT COMPANION, ***TARARA BOOMDEYOY***, WAS THE ***LOVER*** OF HEMLOCK ZINGER, UNTIL ZINGER TRIED TO DISSECT JOHN AND TARARA IN HIS DUNGEON.

AND WE HAVE WITNESSED THE SAD DEATH OF ***THE GENERAL***, HARD JOHN'S TRAINED ORANGUTAN, WHO DIED RESCUING JOHN AND TARARA FROM THE CLUTCHES OF HEMLOCK ZINGER.

MEANWHILE, THE PROTS, THE CATLICKS, THE RED THREATS, AND GOD-ONLY-KNOWS-WHO ELSE ARE BEARING STEADILY DOWN ON KANSAS, HARD JOHN'S HOME TURF COMING IN FROM ALL SIDES, UNAWARE THAT THEY ARE ALL ON A ***COLLISION COURSE***.

HARD JOHN'S DILEMMA: RELEASE THE MISSILES AND DESTROY THIS CORRUPTED WORLD, OR SURRENDER THE MISSILES TO HEMLOCK ZINGER WHO WOULD USE THEM TO FORCE THE WORLD INTO BONDAGE.

WHATEVER DECISION HARD JOHN MAKES, IT MUST BE MADE QUICKLY FOR IN LESS THAN SIX HOURS, ALL THE ARMIES OF THE WORLD WILL CRUSH IN ON THE MISSILE BASE CALLED ***HARD JOHN'S NUCLEAR HIT PARADE***.

I THINK IT'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING I'VE EVER ***SEEN***.

LIKE IT?

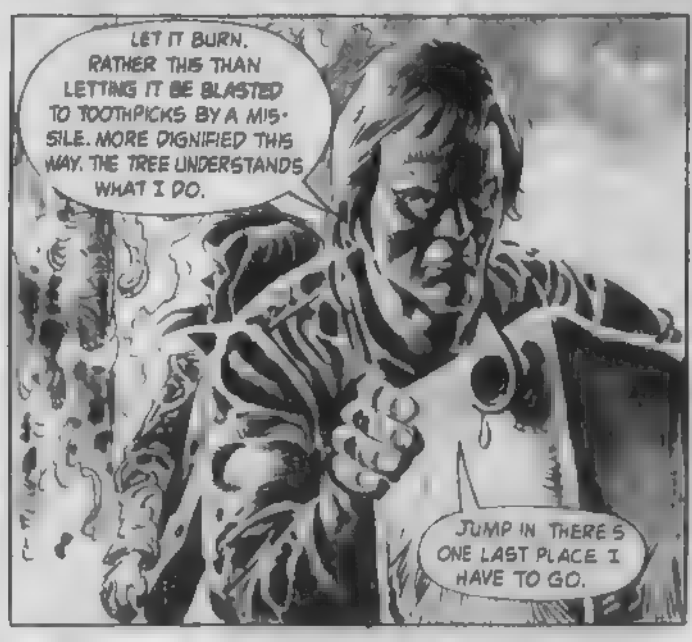
I THINK IT'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING IN ***KANSAS***. THE LAST OF THE MAGNIFICENT ***OAKS***.

GONNA NUKE MANKIND RIGHT OUTA MY HAIR

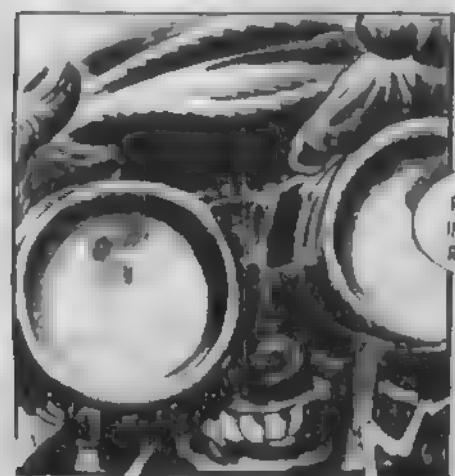
STORY: JIM STENSTRUM/ART: JOSE ORTIZ

SPLASH
WE ARE OF A KIND, THIS TREE AND I. THE LAST OF A BREED. WE GROW IN A LAND OF ROCK AND SAND, AND STAND FIRM IN THE VIOLENCE OF THE GALE.

BUT THERE'S ONE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US. THIS OAK OFFERS HOPE...IT HOLDS THE PROMISE THAT WE CAN LIVE AND PROSPER UNDER EVEN THE CRUELEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES.
WHILE ALL I HAVE TO OFFER...IS DEATH!
JOHN!


LET IT BURN. RATHER THIS THAN LETTING IT BE BLASTED TO TOOTHPICKS BY A MISSILE. MORE DIGNIFIED THIS WAY. THE TREE UNDERSTANDS WHAT I DO.
JUMP IN. THERE'S ONE LAST PLACE I HAVE TO GO.

BUT AS HARD JOHN AND TARAIRA BOOMDEYOV DRIVE AWAY, THEIR MOVEMENTS ARE BEING RECORDED AND LOGGED.


SMOKE, SIR! ABOUT FIVE MILES AHEAD!
GIVE ME THOSE GLASSES.

THAT'S THE NAMELESS REGION. NOTHING BUT SCALDING DESERT. NOBODY IN HIS RIGHT MIND GOES THERE.
IT'S HARD JOHN, ALL RIGHT.

CALL UP THE ARMIES. WE'RE GOING AFTER HIM.
AT ONCE, MASTER ZINGER!

A SHORT TIME LATER, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF A DEAD AND FORGOTTEN TOWN, JOHN AND TARARA HAVE FOUND...

A CHURCH! WHAT IN THE NAME OF ZHIVAGO ARE YOU THINKING OF?

PATIENCE, NINOTCHKA. YOU'LL FIND OUT MOMENTARILY.

I SPENT MY YOUTH IN A PLACE LIKE THIS. I WAS RAISED AN ORTHODOX CATLICK. AT ONE POINT, I WAS EVEN TRAINING TO JOIN THE MINISTRY.

WHAT HAPPENED?

I SAW THE LIGHT.

THE FOLLY OF RELIGIOUS GOVERNMENT IS THAT IT'S FOUNDED ON GHOSTLY INTANGIBLES. IT'S JUST ANOTHER FORM OF REPRESSION...LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM POLITICAL SYSTEMS...EXCEPT THAT INSTEAD OF PROPAGANDA, THEY FEED YOU DOGMA—AND CALL YOU A SINNER IF YOU QUESTION THE CHURCH'S BLIND BELIEFS.

YOU SOUND LIKE YOU HAVE SOME VERY BITTER MEMORIES OF THE CHURCH...

MASTER APPLE!

YOU'RE NOT READING WITH EVERYBODY ELSE, MR APPLE.

I WAS READING AT MY OWN PACE, PREFECT.

THE BOOK DEMANDS THAT THE CLASS WILL READ TOGETHER. ARE YOU SO MUCH SMARTER THAN THE BOOK THAT YOU MUST READ AHEAD OF US?

NO.

LOUDER. SO THE CLASS CAN HEAR.

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN THE BOOK?

NO

ARE YOU??

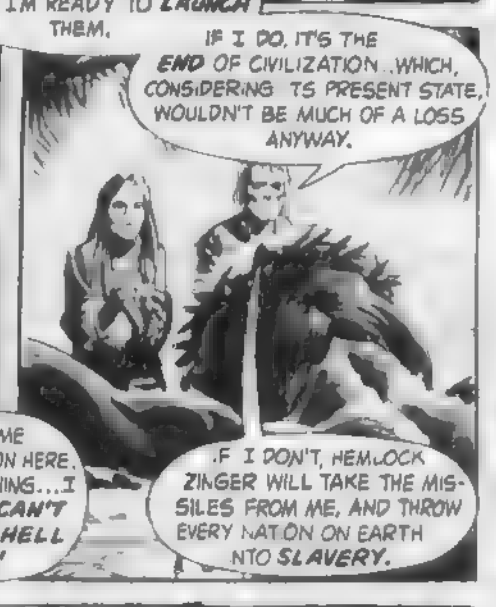
YES!!

NO. NO BITTER MEMORIES. IT'S ALL PART OF THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE, RIGHT?
ANYWAY, I ENDED UP RUNNING AWAY FROM MINISTRY SCHOOL, AND JOINED THE PROT ARMY WHEN I WAS FOURTEEN.
IT WAS THE FIRST PLACE I'D EVER BEEN HAPPY, JUST ME AND A GUN. NOTHING GHOSTLY ABOUT THAT...I COULD ALWAYS BELIEVE IN A GOOD RIFLE.

BUT HERE I AM... RIGHT BACK WHERE I STARTED. ALL THAT'S CHANGED IS I NOW HAVE THE POWER TO DESTROY MANKIND.
DO SOMETHING FOR ME. GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES.
WHAT?
I HAVE THE MISSILES, AND I'M READY TO LAUNCH THEM.

NOW DO THIS WITH YOUR HANDS .INTERLOCK NG YOUR FINGERS AND DON'T SAY ANY-THING JUST LISTEN.
BUT WHAT ARE WE --?
JUST LISTEN.

OUR FATHER, WHO ART HEAVEN.. I WONDER IF YOU'D LEND ME AN EAR FOR A MOMENT
YOU KNOW, YOU'VE PUT ME IN A KINDA TICKLISH SITUATION HERE. I WANT TO DO THE RIGHT THING...I REALLY DO...BUT FELLA, I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT THE HELL YOU WANT ME TO DO!


IF I DO, IT'S THE END OF CIVILIZATION ..WHICH, CONSIDERING TS PRESENT STATE, WOULDN'T BE MUCH OF A LOSS ANYWAY.
.F I DON'T, HEMLOCK ZINGER WILL TAKE THE MIS-SILES FROM ME, AND THROW EVERY NATION ON EARTH NTO SLAVERY.

NOW I KNOW YOU'VE GOT A PLAN BEHIND THIS SCREWY SITUATION, BUT I'VE GOTTA HAVE YOUR HELP IT'S QUICKLY BECOMING TOO LATE.
I'M BEGGING YOU...COME TO ME, MAN. APPEAR BEFORE ME NOW. TELL ME WHY I SHOULDN'T NUKE MANKIND RIGHT OUTA MY HA.R!

NOTHING.
OKAY, THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO KNOW. LET'S BLOW THIS JOINT.

BRRRRRRAAAP
MACHINE-GUN FIRE! TAKE COVER!

HOW MANY ARE THERE?
CAN'T TELL. THEY'RE ON THREE SIDES OF US
IF IT'S ZINGER'S MEN, THEY'LL BE SWARMING ALL OVER US IN A MINUTE. WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!

HERE. IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE AN AUTOMATIC, TELL ME NOW.
LET ME SEE IF I REMEMBER...

POW
POW

POW

BOW

JUST LIKE RIDING A BICYCLE!
HMPH! YOU HAD TO USE TWO BULLETS ON THAT FIRST ONE!
YOUR SIGHT WAS OFF I HAD TO ADJUST

BLAM
BRAM
POW
BLAM
BRAAP
CRIMINY! ZINGER'S FOUND OUR OPEN SIDE!
THEY GOT US SURROUNDED!

THEY'RE EVERY PLACE YOU TURN! PREPARE TO MAKE YOUR EXIT!
WHERE??

THERE!
POW
POW
EXIT
RUN FOR IT! I'M COVERING!

CRA ROOM

CRASH
EXIT

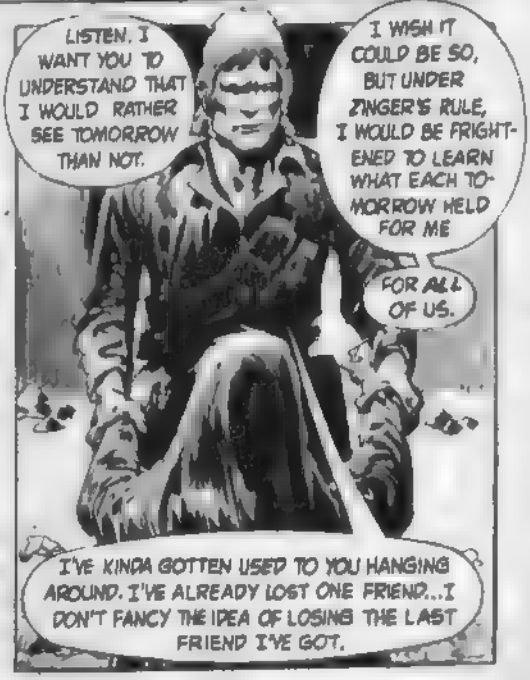
ALL RIGHT! LEAVE US GET OUT OF HERE!
BUT JOHN! A TANK IS BLOCKING THE ROAD!
WORKIN' ON IT, BABE.

BLAM!

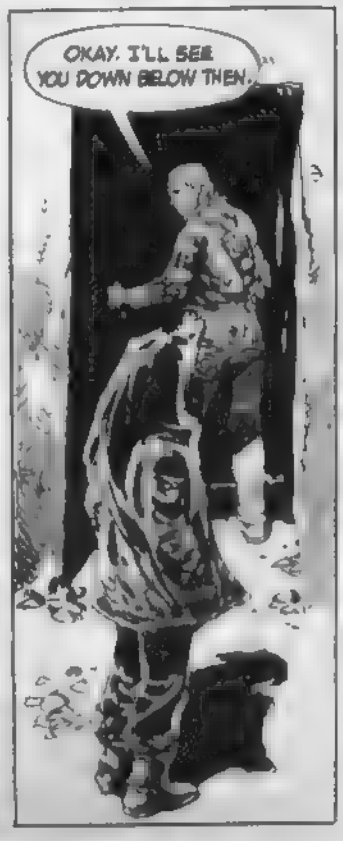
CRRUUNCH

TIME IS SHORT. I [redacted] BEFORE ZINGER AND HIS ARMES GET HERE.
I WANT YOU TO STAY HERE AND ACT AS LOOKOUT. WATCH THE HORIZON. AS SOON AS YOU [redacted] A BEELINE TO THE LAUNCH ROOM, ALL RIGHT?
YES... RIGHT.

BECAUSE WHEN THE TIME COMES, I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO TURN THE OTHER LAUNCHING KEY. WILL YOU BE THERE?
YES...JOHN...I WILL, I...I...
WHAT? WHAT IS IT?
NOTHING. A SENSE OF DREAD.


LISTEN. I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT I WOULD RATHER SEE TOMORROW THAN NOT.
I WISH IT COULD BE SO, BUT UNDER ZINGER'S RULE, I WOULD BE FRIGHTENED TO LEARN WHAT EACH TOMORROW HELD FOR ME
FOR ALL OF US.
I'VE KINDA GOTTEN USED TO YOU HANGING AROUND. I'VE ALREADY LOST ONE FRIEND...I DON'T FANCY THE IDEA OF LOSING THE LAST FRIEND I'VE GOT.

SO TELL ME NOW. TELL ME WHATEVER I DO IS ALL RIGHT WITH YOU. TELL ME THAT YOU TRUST ME TO DO THE RIGHT THING.
I DO. I TRUST YOU, JOHN.


OKAY. I'LL SEE YOU DOWN BELOW THEN.

CRUNCH

OH!
HELLO, TARARA. WE SAW THE BACK DOOR OPEN, SO WE LET OURSELVES IN.

HARD JOHN IS TOO LATE, MY DARLING. IN MINUTES THIS BASE WILL BE OVERRUN BY MY ARMIES, AND THESE MISSILES WILL BELONG TO ME!
WHERE IS HE, TARARA? IS HE BELOW IN THE CONTROL ROOM NOW?

PTUU

THANK YOU, DARLING TARARA. YOU'VE JUST TOLD ME EXACTLY WHERE TO FIND HIM.

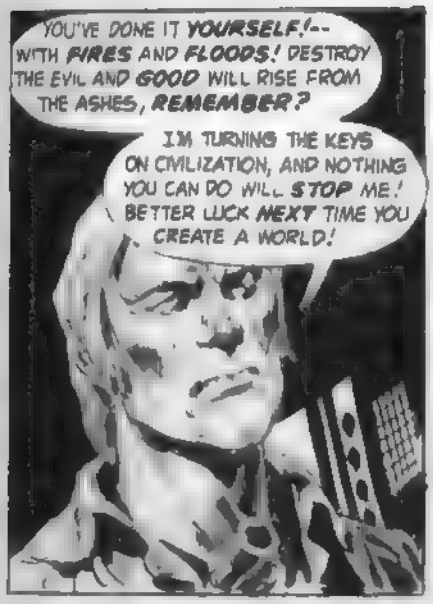
BUNKER DOOR IS LOCKED TIGHT, MASTER ZINGER. WE CAN'T GET IN.
GET SOME ROPE THEN. WE'LL GO DOWN THE SILOS.

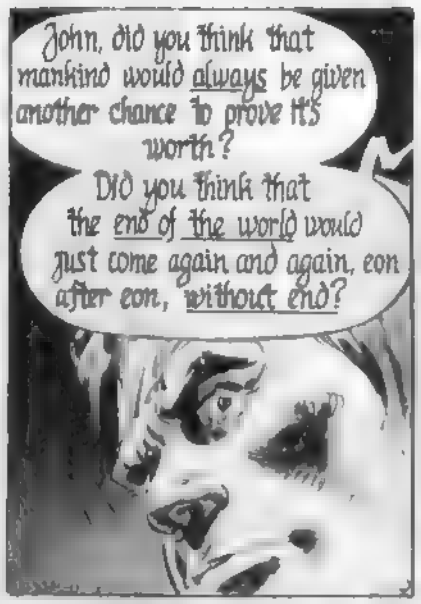
ONCE I'M DOWN, HAVE YOUR MEN FOLLOW ME IN THE OTHER SILOS, AND THEN AWAIT MY ORDERS. I WANT NO MISTAKES AT THIS STAGE OF THE GAME UNDERSTOOD?
UNDERSTOOD, MASTER ZINGER!

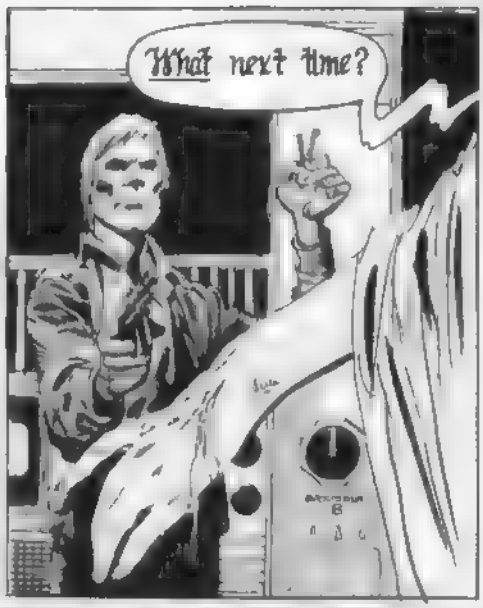
WHILE BELOW IN THE CONTROL ROOM...
WHERE IS THAT GIRL? WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME?
A SHADOW...SOMEBODY WORKING THEIR WAY TOWARD ME.

YOU!

WE'VE WAITED SO LONG... SO MANY YEARS. BUT YOU WOULDN'T COME WHEN WE NEEDED YOU MOST.
NOW WE'RE CORRUPTED BEYOND ALL HOPE. DO YOU SEE WHAT YOU'VE LET US BECOME?
Would you destroy everything, John?


YOU'VE DONE IT YOURSELF!-- WITH FIRES AND FLOODS! DESTROY THE EVIL AND GOOD WILL RISE FROM THE ASHES, REMEMBER?
I'M TURNING THE KEYS ON CIVILIZATION, AND NOTHING YOU CAN DO WILL STOP ME! BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME YOU CREATE A WORLD!


John, did you think that mankind would always be given another chance to prove it's worth?
Did you think that the end of the world would just come again and again, eon after eon, without end?


What next time?

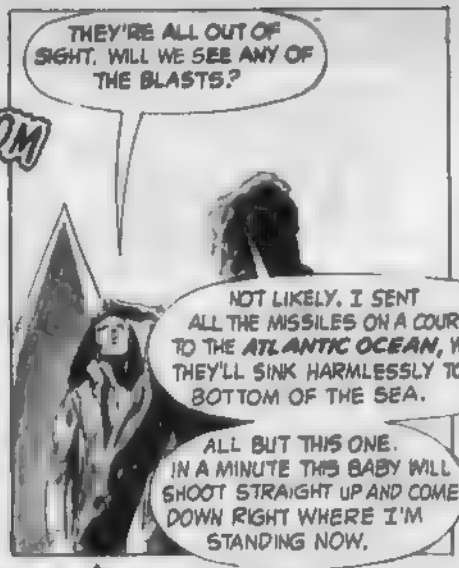
NUCLEAR LAUNCH COMPUTER
A
SSZZIP

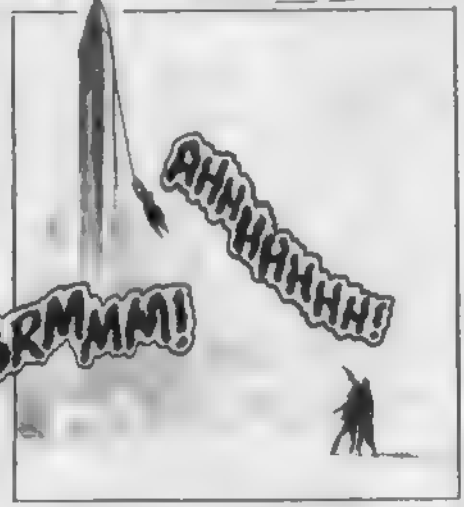
NUCLEAR LAUNCH COMPUTER
B
SSSZIP

NO!
BRRRRRRRR!

BRRRRRRRR!
IDIOTS! PULL ME UP!

BRRRR
RRRR!





AND MEN WILL SAY: "HERE WAS LAID TO REST THE ARMIES OF THE WORLD. AND FOR A LONG TIME AFTERWARD, THERE WAS NO WAR."

"AND IN A TIME WHEN THE EARTH HAD NEARLY BEEN DEVOURED BY HELL, IT WAS MAN'S GOOD FORTUNE THAT TWO PEOPLE, AT LEAST, STAYED SHY OF IT."

END

IT IS WELL KNOWN AMONG HORROR FILM FANS THAT MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO DIE IN HORROR FILMS ARE VICTIMS OF THEIR OWN STUPIDITY. THESE PEOPLE CHOOSE NOT TO HEED OBVIOUS SIGNS AND WARNINGS OF IMPENDING DANGER, SUCH AS A DOOR LOCKING BEHIND THEM SEEMINGLY OF ITS OWN VOLITION, OR A FRIEND KNOCKING AT THEIR DOOR WHOSE FUNERAL THEY JUST ATTENDED THE WEEK BEFORE, AND BECAUSE THEY IGNORE THESE SIGNS THEY BECOME THE *MISFORTUNES OF HORROR*.

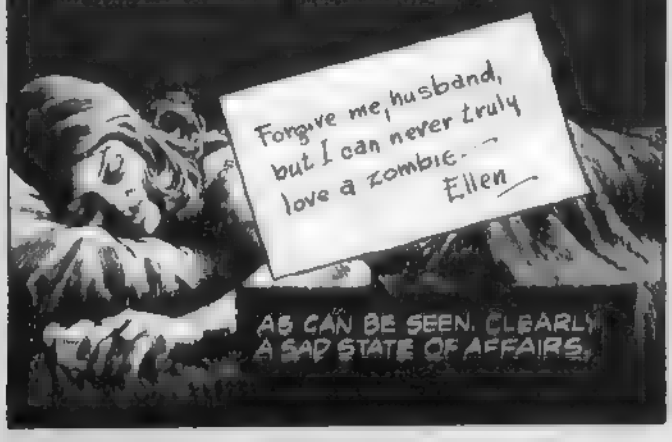
JIMINY CHRISTMAS! IT'S MY OLD COMPANY FROM THE *JAP CONCENTRATION CAMP!* I THOUGHT THEY WERE ALL EXECUTED WHEN I SOLD THEM OUT FOR A CARTON OF CIGARETTES!

LET US *IN*, SARGE! WE'LL TALK OVER OLD TIMES!

WE'D BETTER LET THEM IN DEAR, IF THEY'RE YOUR FRIENDS.

THIS MIGHT BE AMUSING IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE ALARMING INCREASE OF *HORROR VICTIMS* EVIDENCED OVER RECENT YEARS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. EVERYWHERE, REPORTS OF SLAYINGS BY SUPER-ABNORMAL PHENOMENA... *MONSTERS*... ARE SCALING NEW HEIGHTS; IN THE AREAS OF VAMPIRE-BITING, WEREWOLF-GNAWING, GOLEM-CRUSHING AND DEMON-POSSESSING, THESE CAN BE CONSIDERED OF *EPIDEMIC* PROPORTIONS.

RECENT SURVEYS, IN FACT, HAVE SHOWN AN INCREASE OF **37%** IN HORROR VICTIMS IN THE U.S. ALONE, WHICH IS DISTRESSING ENOUGH, BUT EVEN THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE *RELATIVES* OF HORROR VICTIMS DRIVEN TO SUICIDE UPON HEARING THE HIDEOUS FATE OF THEIR LOVED ONES.



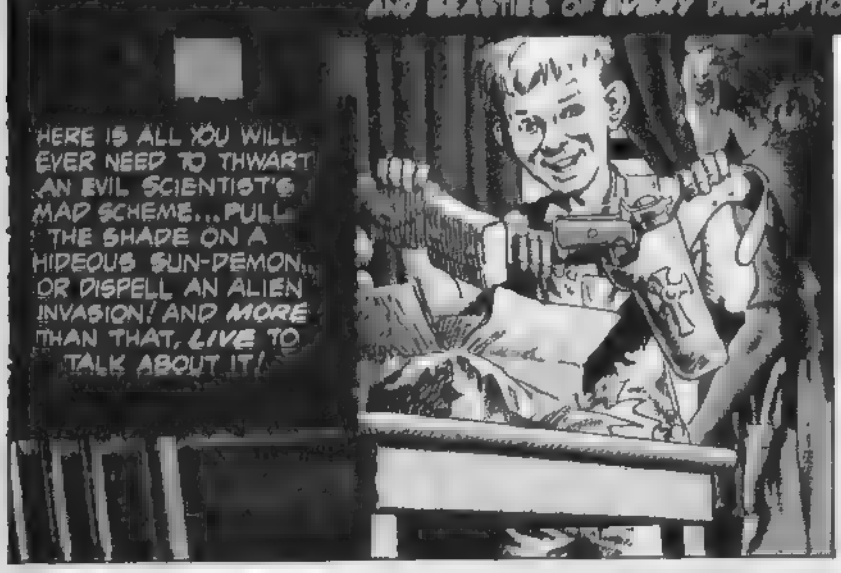
AS CAN BE SEEN, CLEARLY A SAD STATE OF AFFAIRS.

AND AS THE CHILL HAND OF HORROR CRUSHES IN ON US DAILY, IT IS CERTAINLY ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE YOUR FAMILY *TOO*, IS RAVAGED BY THIS TERRIBLE SCOURGE.

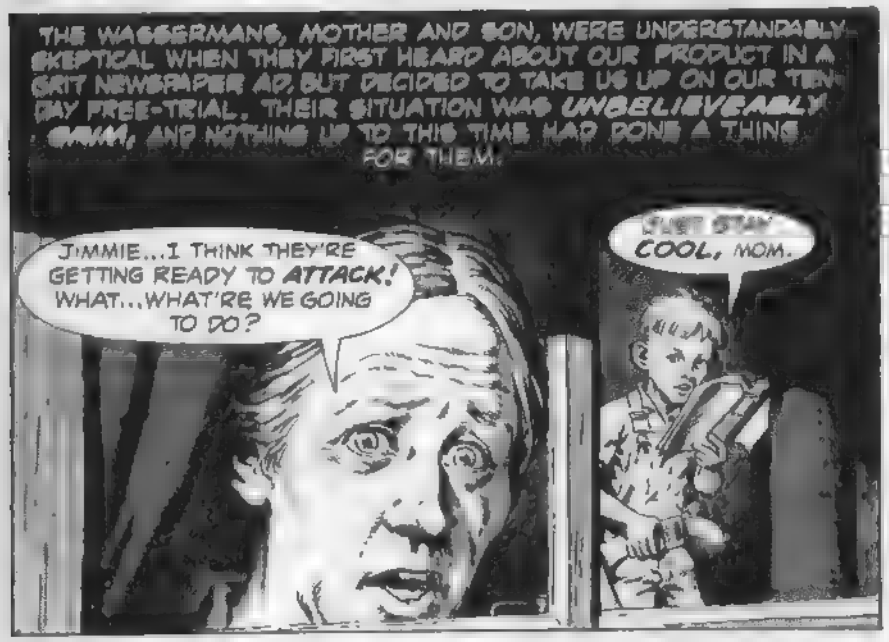
the SUPER-ABNORMAL PHENOMENA SURVIVAL KIT!

STORY: JIM STENSTRUM / ART: JOHN SEVERIN

THE SUPER-ABNORMAL PHENOMENA SURVIVAL KIT, ALSO CALLED THE S.A.P.S. KIT...A COMPLETE OUTFIT OF SURVIVAL GEAR AND TECHNIQUES COMPILED BY EXPERTS TO HELP YOU AGAINST HORRIBLES AND BEASTIES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION!

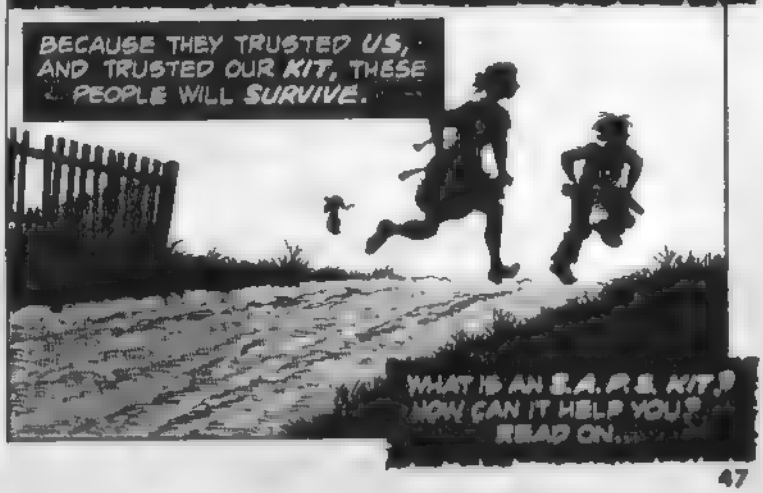


THE WASSERMANS, MOTHER AND SON, WERE UNDERSTANDABLY SKEPTICAL WHEN THEY FIRST HEARD ABOUT OUR PRODUCT IN A GRIT NEWSPAPER AD, BUT DECIDED TO TAKE US UP ON OUR TEN DAY FREE-TRIAL. THEIR SITUATION WAS UNBELIEVEABLY GRIM, AND NOTHING UP TO THIS TIME HAD DONE A THING FOR THEM.



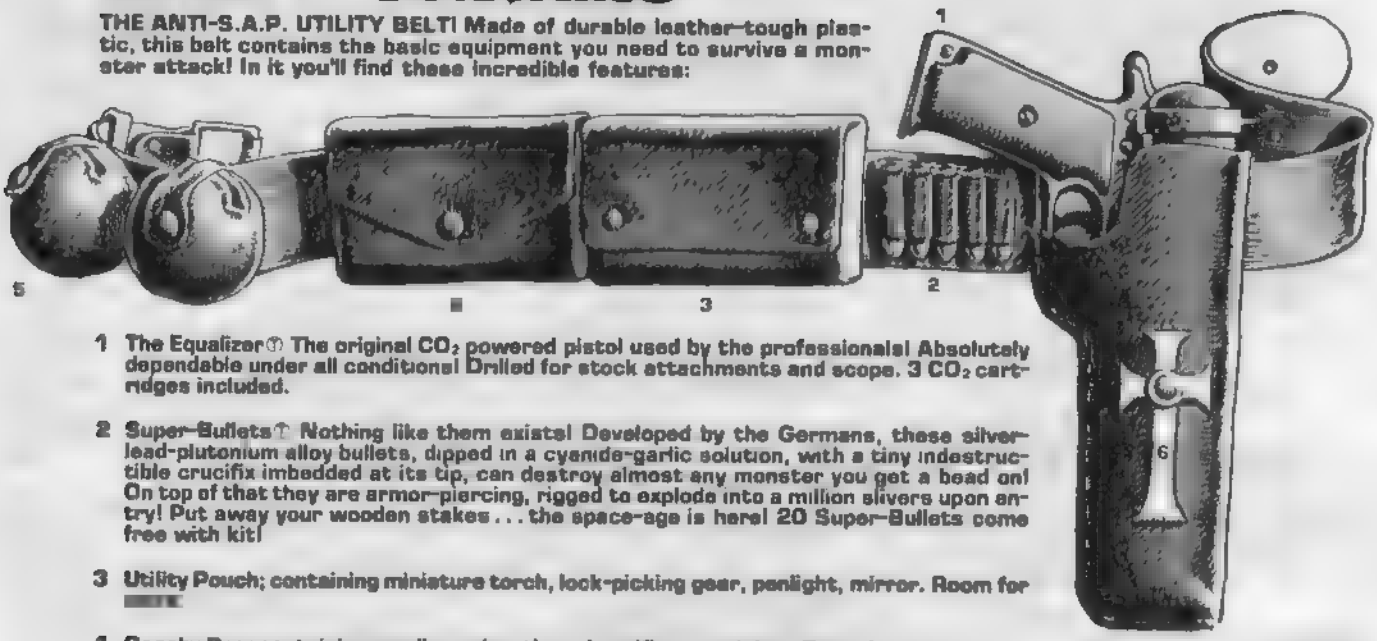
AFTER ONLY A BRIEF PERUSAL OF OUR KIT, YOUNG JIMMIE KNEW THIS WAS THE ANSWER THEY NEEDED SO DESPERATELY. FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS DETAILED IN THE KIT, HE CUPPED HIS HANDS INTO A MAKESHIFT MEGAPHONE AND CRIED OUT:

THE RUSE WORKED. WHILE THE MONSTERS SCAMPERED AROUND THE BACK, JIMMIE AND HIS MOTHER RAN OUT THE FRONT, ESCAPING INEVITABLE DOOM AT THE HANDS OF THE VORACIOUS MONSTERS.



THE S.A.P.S. KIT-- WHAT IT CONTAINS:

THE ANTI-S.A.P. UTILITY BELT! Made of durable leather-tough plastic, this belt contains the basic equipment you need to survive a monster attack! In it you'll find these incredible features:



1 **The Equalizer® The original CO_2 powered pistol used by the professionals! Absolutely dependable under all conditions! Drilled for stock attachments and scope. 3 CO_2 cartridges included.**

2 **Super-Bullets® Nothing like them exists! Developed by the Germans, these silver-lead-plutonium alloy bullets, dipped in a cyanide-garlic solution, with a tiny indestructible crucifix imbedded at its tip, can destroy almost any monster you get a bead on! On top of that they are armor-piercing, rigged to explode into a million slivers upon entry! Put away your wooden stakes . . . the space-age is here! 20 Super-Bullets come free with kit!**

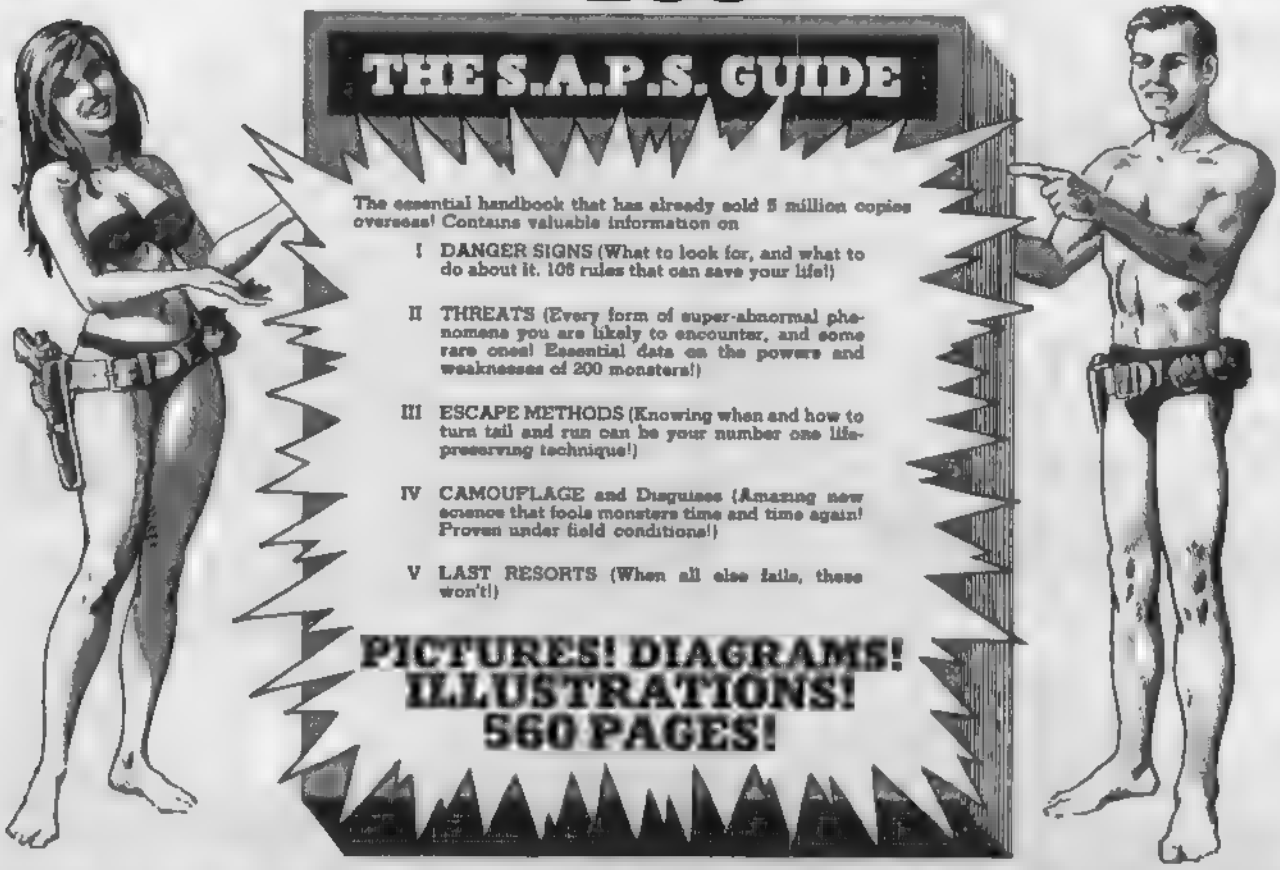
3 **Utility Pouch; containing miniature torch, lock-picking gear, penlight, mirror. Room for more.**

4 **Goochy Bag; containing candles, wire, thread, wolfbane, sulpher. Room for more.**

5 **Two hand-grenades.**

6 **Handy-detachable crucifix.**

PLUS



TAKE A LOOK AT THIS SAMPLING FROM THE S.A.P.S. GUIDE

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

EXCERPT, PAGE 22, S.A.P.S. GUIDE, RULE 3.

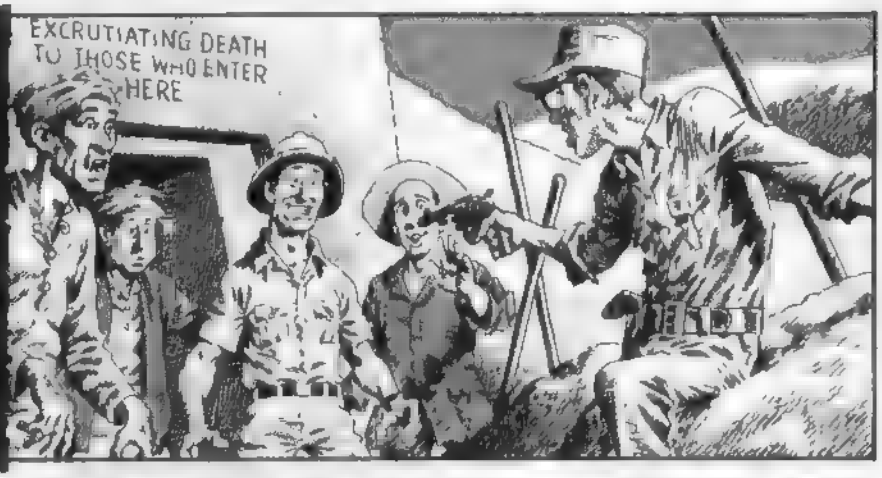
NEVER ENTER CASTLES. THERE ARE **NO** EXCEPTIONS. 23% OF ALL HORROR MURDERS AND ATROCITIES ARE COMMITTED WITHIN CASTLE WALLS, AND BY STAYING CLEAR OF THEM YOU SUBSEQUENTLY MAKE YOUR LIFE 23% **SAFER.** IF YOU SPOT A CASTLE, AND CIRCUMSTANCES DO NOT ALLOW YOU TO LEAVE THE AREA, REMAIN OUTSIDE, CAMOUFLAGE, AND STAY AWAKE UNTIL MORNING, WHEN THE STORM WILL SUBSIDE. TAKE THE FIRST TRAIN OUT.

EXCERPT, PAGE 24, RULE 10.

DO NOT OPEN COFFINS. WHAT POSSIBLE MOTIVE COULD YOU HAVE FOR DOING THIS THING? THE CHANCES ARE SO GREAT THAT SOMETHING WILL JUMP OUT AND BITE YOU, THAT YOU MUST HAVE A DEATH WISH TO OPEN ONE. EVEN IF THERE ISN'T A S.A.P. IN IT, THERE'S GOT TO BE A DEAD PERSON AT LEAST. AND HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A DEAD PERSON UP REALLY CLOSE? **BLEECH!**

EXCERPT, PAGE 23, RULE 5.

DO NOT ENTER TOMBS OR DESECRATE THE DEAD. THIS IS A SURE TICKET TO DAMNATION, NOT ONLY FOR YOU, BUT FOR YOUR **DESCENDENTS!** JUST TELL THE REST OF THE EXPEDITION THANKS, BUT YOU'LL WAIT BACK AT CAMP. IF SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE TEAM GET CUTE AND TRY TO PULL YOU INSIDE, SHOOT ONE OF THEM WITH YOUR REVOLVER. THEY WILL SOON CUT OUT THEIR CLOWNING.



EXCERPT, PAGE 37, RULE 51.

DESTROY ALL SCIENTIFIC AND ALCHEMIC EQUIPMENT. THERE IS NO SUCH ANIMAL AS A BENEVOLENT SCIENTIST. EVEN THE SO-CALLED GOOD ONES WILL ALWAYS HAVE THEIR INVENTIONS USED FOR EVIL. IF, WHEN VISITING A FRIEND WHO OF LATE HAS SEEMED DISTANT AND ODD TO YOU, YOU DISCOVER HE HAS A LABORATORY IN THE CELLAR, IT IS YOUR **DUTY** TO DESTROY THIS EQUIPMENT. YOU MAY NOT ONLY BE SAVING YOUR OWN LIFE BUT HIS AS WELL.

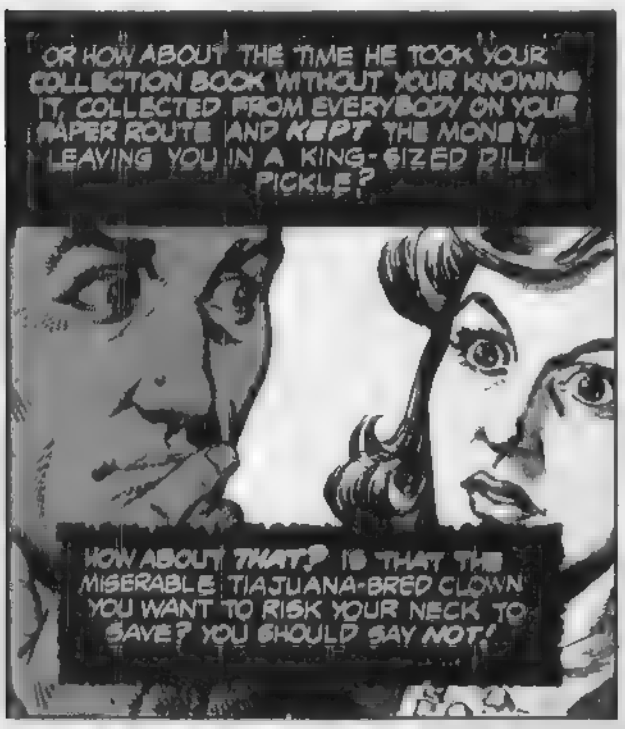
AND HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE LIFE-SAVING HINTS CONTAINED IN THE S.A.P. GUIDE

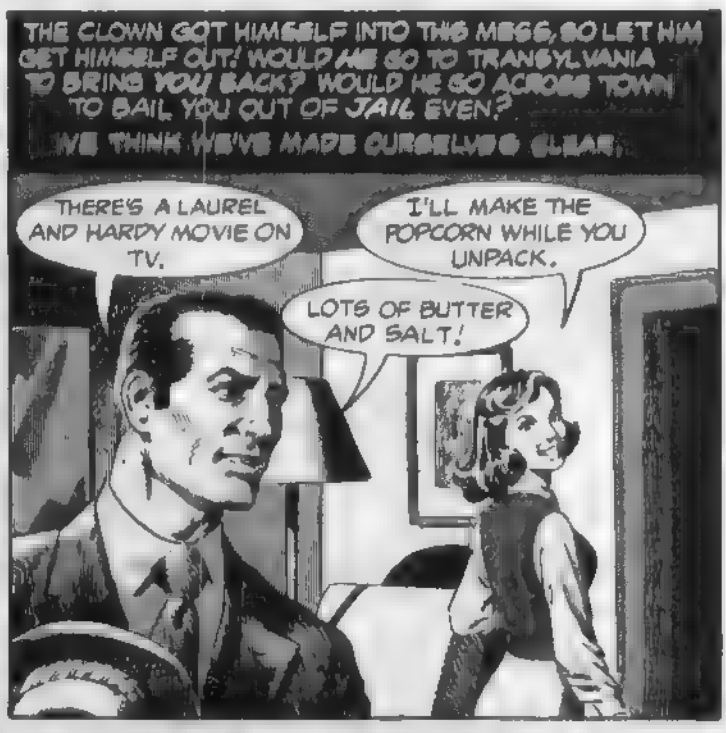
EXCERPT, PAGE 111, S.A.P.S. GUIDE:

STAY THE HECK OUT OF ROMANIA, PARTICULARLY TRANSYLVANIA! THIS IS ABSOLUTELY THE MOST DANGEROUS PLACE IN THE WORLD. MONSTER COUNTRY. THIS IS WHERE MOST OF THEM ORIGINATE. THERE IS NO KNOWN POPULATION OTHER THAN S.A.P.S. EVERYBODY THERE IS A VAMPIRE, A WEREWOLF, A SCIENTIST (OR A SCIENTIST'S ASSISTANT), OR THEY ARE UNDER THEIR POWERFUL CONTROL. LEAVE THIS AREA FOR PROFESSIONAL S.A.P. HUNTERS!

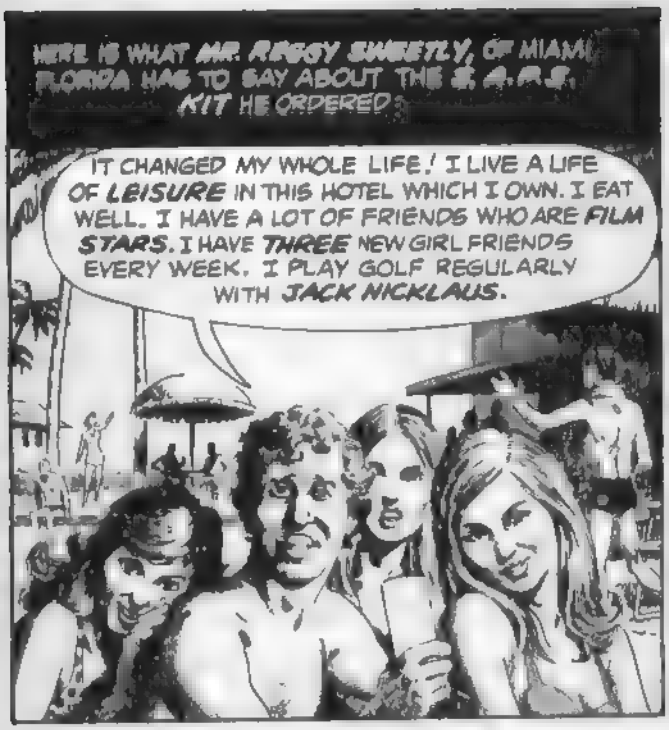
EXCERPTS, PAGES 140 AND 141:

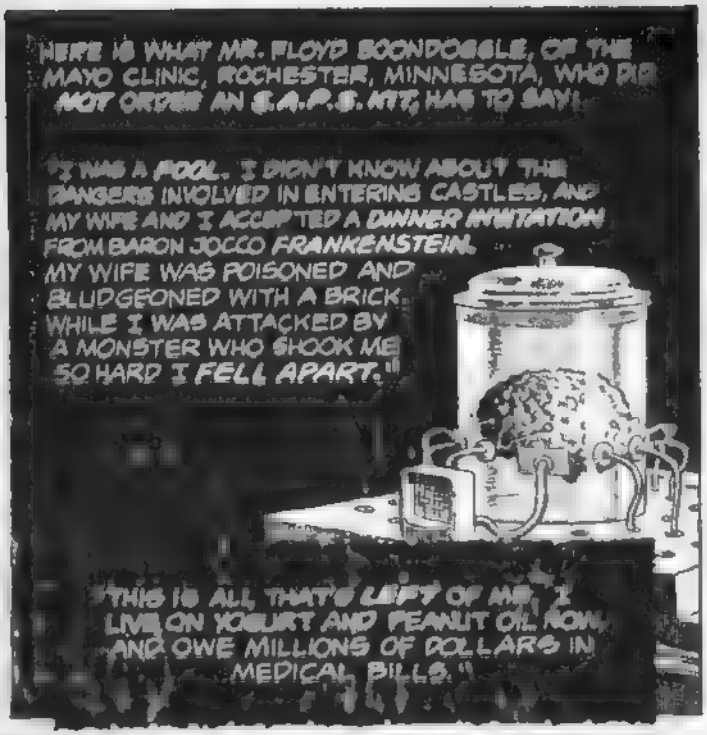
THERE MAY BE OCCASIONS WHEN YOU DECIDE A TRIP TO TRANSYLVANIA IS NECESSARY. SAY YOUR NUMBSKULL BROTHER, THE GENEOLOGIST, IN HIS SEARCH FOR COUNT YORGA'S GRAVE, WAS LOST THERE, AND YOU FEEL AN OBLIGATION TO FIND HIM AND RETURN HIM TO THE STATES.





PAGE AFTER PAGE OF VALUABLE AIDS LIKE THESE ARE YOURS IN THE S.A.P.S. GUIDE! JUST LISTEN TO WHAT THESE PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE SUPER-ABNORMAL PHENOMENA SURVIVAL KIT...





TRY THE S.A.P.S. KIT FOR 10 DAYS AND SEE IF IT ISN'T ALL WE CLAIM!

Just send us a cashier's check along with the coupon at right. If, 10 days after receiving your S.A.P.S. Kit, you are not pushing monsters around like milquetoasts, send us back the kit for a full refund. Don't take unneeded chances—SEND NOW!

ONLY $199.95

Yes! I am tired of risking my life and the lives of my loved ones. Send me The Super-Abnormal Phenomena Survival Kit at once! I enclose $199.95 for every S.A.P.S. Kit I order.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

_____ Quantity of Kits

MAIL TO:
I WANT TO LIVE, INC.
2 Mountain Pine Road
Danbury, Connecticut

THE CREEPER SAYS:

EXTRA! THIS FREE GIFT IF YOU ORDER NOW!

MARVESTING MONSTERS FOR PROFIT!
A BRILLIANT TEXT BY A WORLD-FAMOUS MONSTER-HUNTER WHO TELLS YOU HOW YOU CAN BEGIN A CAREER IN THIS LUCRATIVE FIELD! ROUST THE BIG GAME OUT OF THEIR HOLES AND CUT THEM DOWN LIKE WHEAT!

MONSTERS!

THANKS FOR THE TIP, FRIEND!

THERE'LL BE A SHARE OF THE BOUNTY MONEY IN THIS FOR YOU!

IT'S NOT SO MUCH THE MONEY. THE LESS I HAVE OF THAT SORT IN MY HOTEL, THE BETTER I LIKE IT.

ALL THIS, AND MORE, IS YOURS WHEN YOU ORDER THE SUPER-ABNORMAL PHENOMENA SURVIVAL KIT! DO IT TODAY! YOU WON'T BE SORRY!

SERVICE ENTRANCE

WHAK

AND, WHEN ORDERING, BE SURE TO ASK ABOUT OUR CITY STREETS AND ALLEYWAYS SURVIVAL KIT!...WHEREIN YOU WILL LEARN TO DEFEND YOURSELF AGAINST THE LESS FANTASTIC BUT EQUALLY DEADLY MUGGERS, RAPISTS, MOTORCYCLE GANGS AND MAFIOSO. LEARN EVERY FORM OF MARTIAL ART EVER DEVISED! SPEAK REAL STREET JIVE! DISCOVER THE 11 USES OF THE BALL-PEEN HAMMER!

ALSO AVAILABLE, THESE OTHER FINE I WANT TO LIVE PRODUCTS: THE WORLD WAR III SURVIVAL KIT; THE INCURABLE DISEASES SURVIVAL KIT; AND OUR HOTTEST SELLER, THE IRWIN ALLEN SURVIVAL KIT.

END

WARREN Special Issue Magazines!

STAR WARS SPECTACULAR The most incredible movie of all time is featured! Photos, articles, facts, all in an 8½"x11" format! SW/$9.00

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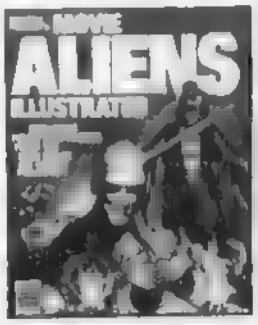
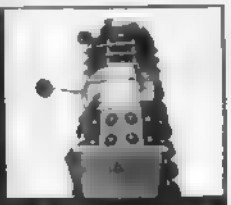


MOVIE ALIENS ILLUSTRATED Seven in-depth articles on classic alien movie invasions from the pages of Famous Monsters! 72 pgs! MAI/$2.00

DOCTOR WHO PAPERBACKS



4 BOOKS FOR $5.98 — 6 BOOKS FOR $8.95

REVENGE OF THE CYBERMAN Doctor Who is caught in the middle of an interstellar battle between the dreadful Cyberman and the horrible Vogans with the planet Voga as its prize! Can the Vogan hang on to their home? Will Who help? #21378/$1.75

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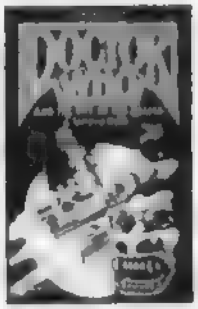

DAY OF THE DALEKS The biomechanical Daleks attack as Dr Who makes it to American movies and T.V. This hit T.V. series from England's B.B.C. takes the lead in science fiction adventure. See why it has been running on British T.V. for 15 years now! This is the first adventure of the Dr. Who series. #21368/$1.75

DOOMSDAY WEAPON Doctor Who faces the ultimate weapon, the weapon that will destroy all Earth in one blow. A weapon that can rip the fabric of the universe to shreds. A weapon that will unravel time and space. Dr Who marches on in this the second installment of this fabulous adventure series! #21369/$1.75

DINOSAUR INVASION [illegible] Earth. No one expected [illegible] Dr. Who lands in a [illegible] and devoid of human life! Dr Who must stop a bizarre plot to reverse time as a mad scientist tries to establish a golden age by eliminating mankind! #21369/$1.75

GENESIS OF THE DALEKS The Time Lords send Doctor Who to Skaro, the planet on which the Daleks evolved, and to a time before the Daleks came to be. Can he prevent the birth of these insidious machines? The Daleks are out to ravage the Earth and the universe. Doctor Who is in for a cliff hanger! #21370/$1.75

THE LATEST AND THE GREATEST BRAIN SHATTERING COLLECTION OF SCI-FI AND SPINE TINGLING PAPERBACKS

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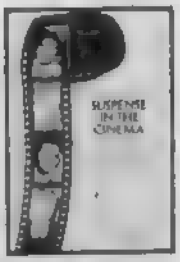
MONSTER MAZES To solve the 50 mazes in this book, just find the exits. Extra fun: beat the challenge time given for each.#21278/95¢



SUSPENSE IN THE CINEMA This 219 page book focuses on crime films and techniques which create suspense. Index.#21060/$1.25

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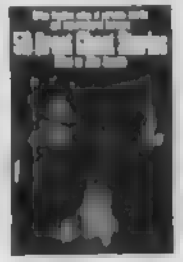
NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD 191 page novel based on the screenplay. Ghouls, felled by plague, rise from dead 51 photos.#21113/$1.25



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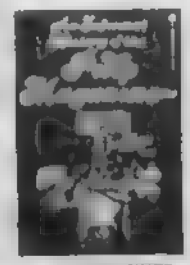

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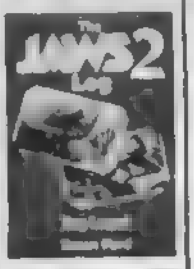

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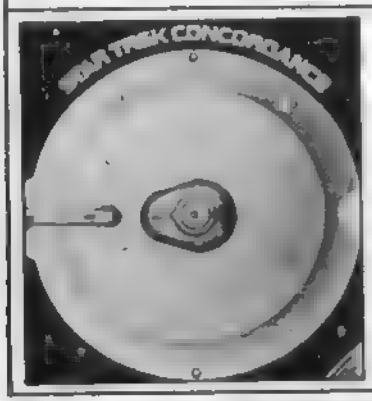

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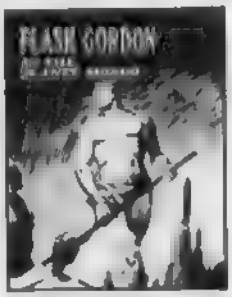

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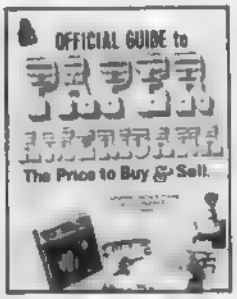

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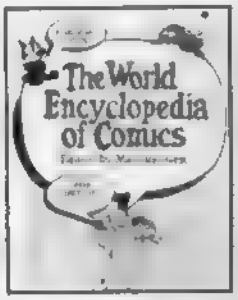

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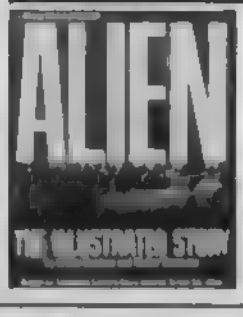

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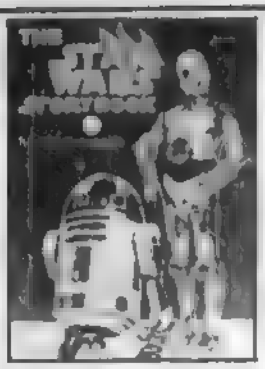

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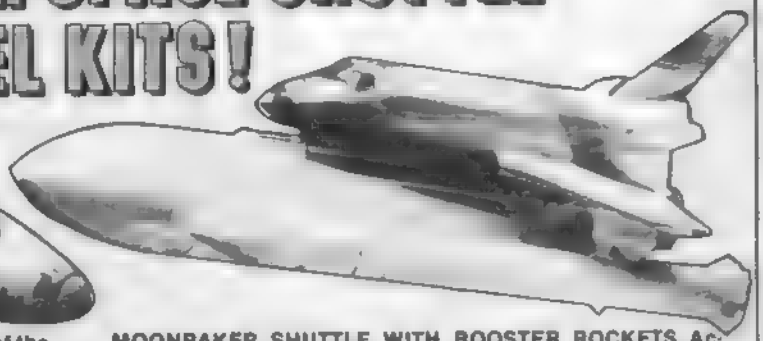

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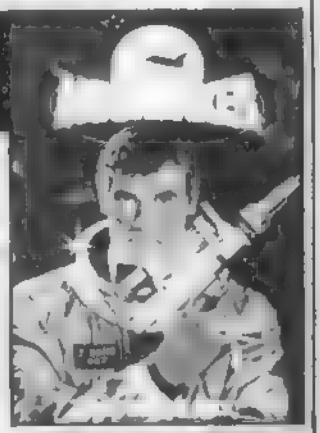

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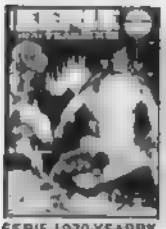
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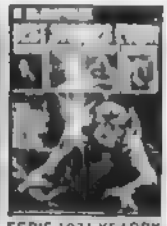
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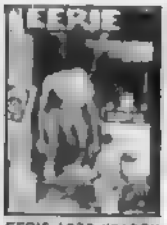
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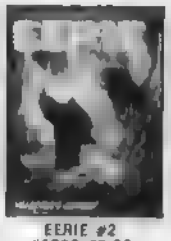
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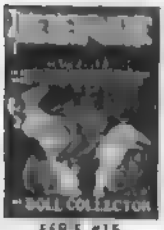

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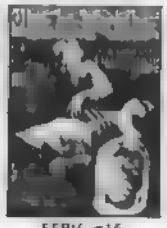
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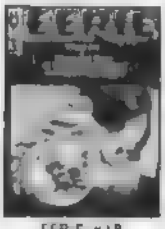
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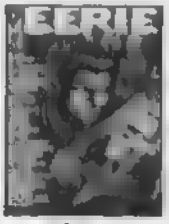
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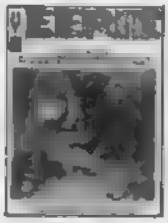
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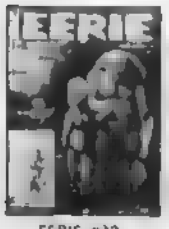
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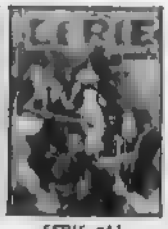
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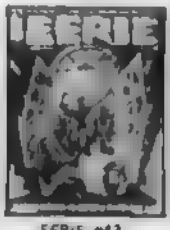
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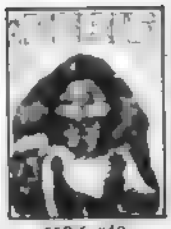
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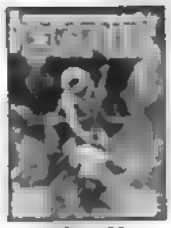
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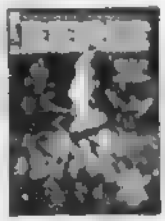
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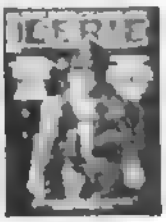
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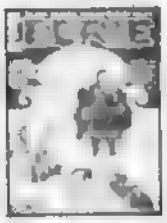
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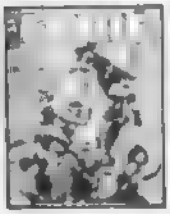
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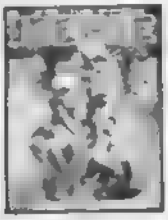
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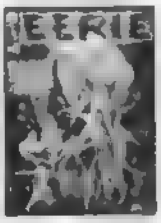
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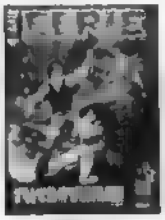
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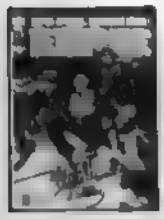
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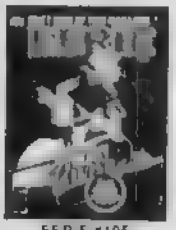
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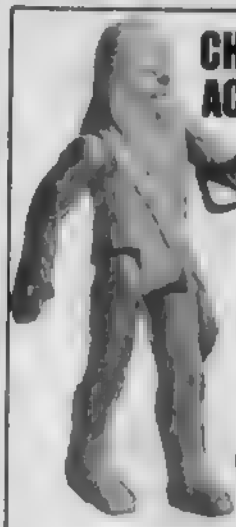

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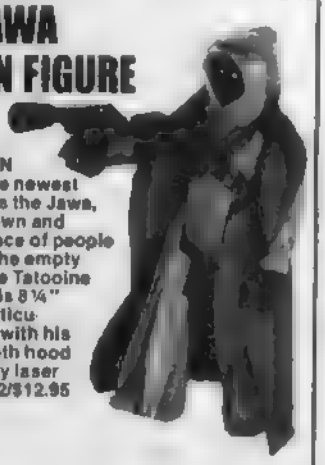

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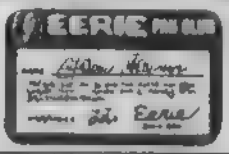

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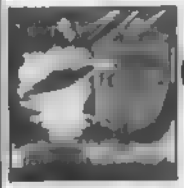

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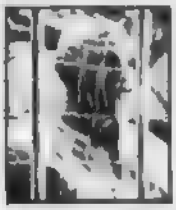

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High in the Carpathian Mountains, a mad scientist works to revive the Frankenstein monster. And he succeeds in time for the living corpse to do battle with Wolfman. The fight between the monsters is one of horror filmdom's finest. Stars Lugosi as Frankenstein and Chaney as Wolfman. SUPER 8 ONLY #2227/$10.95

DOOM OF DRACULA

Boris Karloff portrays a carnival owner who locates the remains of Count Dracula. He brings the vampire back to life, and sends him on an utterly diabolical mission. Soon, however, Karloff realizes he has made a mistake, as Dracula turns on him! J. Carradine is Dracula. Sequel is "House of Frankenstein." #2248/$10.95

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This is it! The original motion picture featuring H. G. Wells' classic character. This effort introduced the great Claude Rains to the industry. Startling special effects by John P. Fulton, which show man who becomes transparent due to scientific experiments. A chilling film. Super 8 only. #2237/$10.95

HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN

Follow-up feature to "Doom of Dracula." Karloff stars as scientist disguised as a Carny owner who is journeying the world over in search of the Frankenstein monster. And, finally, he finds it . . . returning it to life. But then, trouble! For the Wolfman arrives to destroy doctor and 'patient.' Sup 8. #2247/$10.95

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All the monsters are out to destroy each other and anything that is in the way—such as the entire nation of Japan! What a collection of 300 foot horrors—Godzilla, Manda, Mothra and Rodan! Oh wow, it's nip and tuck for Japan! Black and white, super or regular 8mm reels only! #22061/$10.95

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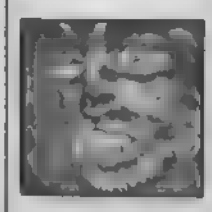

One of the most popular monster movies in history. A young boy visits a psychiatrist to solve his various hang-ups. But the doctor, himself, is deranged and hypnotizes the boy. Under hypnosis, the young man is convinced by the psychiatrist he is a werewolf! Super 8 only. #2221/$10.95

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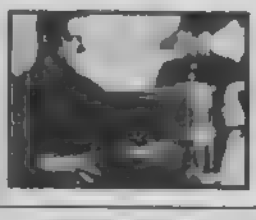

The famous Frankenstein monster is revived in an amazing fashion via a brain transplant. Igor, the hunchback, gives his brain to the creature. [illegible] the classical movie "Ghost of Frankenstein." #22086/$10.95

RETURN OF DRACULA

Dracula is back, in the form of actor Charles Leder. The Count moves into a small, isolated town and begins to live as a parasite, sucking the blood of the plain country folk around him. All goes well until the infamous monster is found out . . . and hunted. One of the most unusual Dracula films. #2273/$10.95

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TROG

The body of a prehistoric man is discovered by Joan Crawford (sexy scientist of anthropology). After one million years hibernation, this neanderthal awakens to [illegible] front the modern world & the modern woman—in the voluptuous form of the aforementioned Joan Crawford! A 200 foot film in both regular 8 and super 8! #2282/$10.95

TASTE THE BLOOD OF DRACULA

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IT CONQUERED THE WORLD

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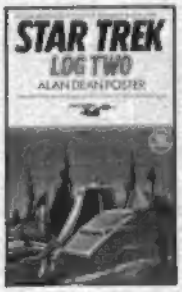

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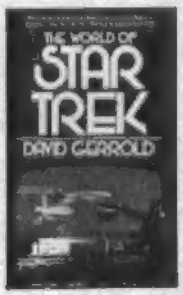

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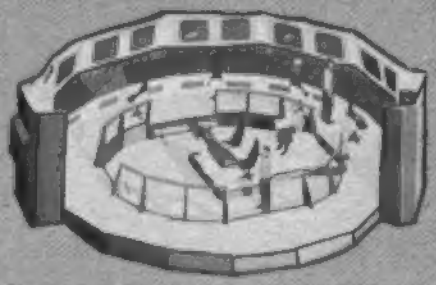

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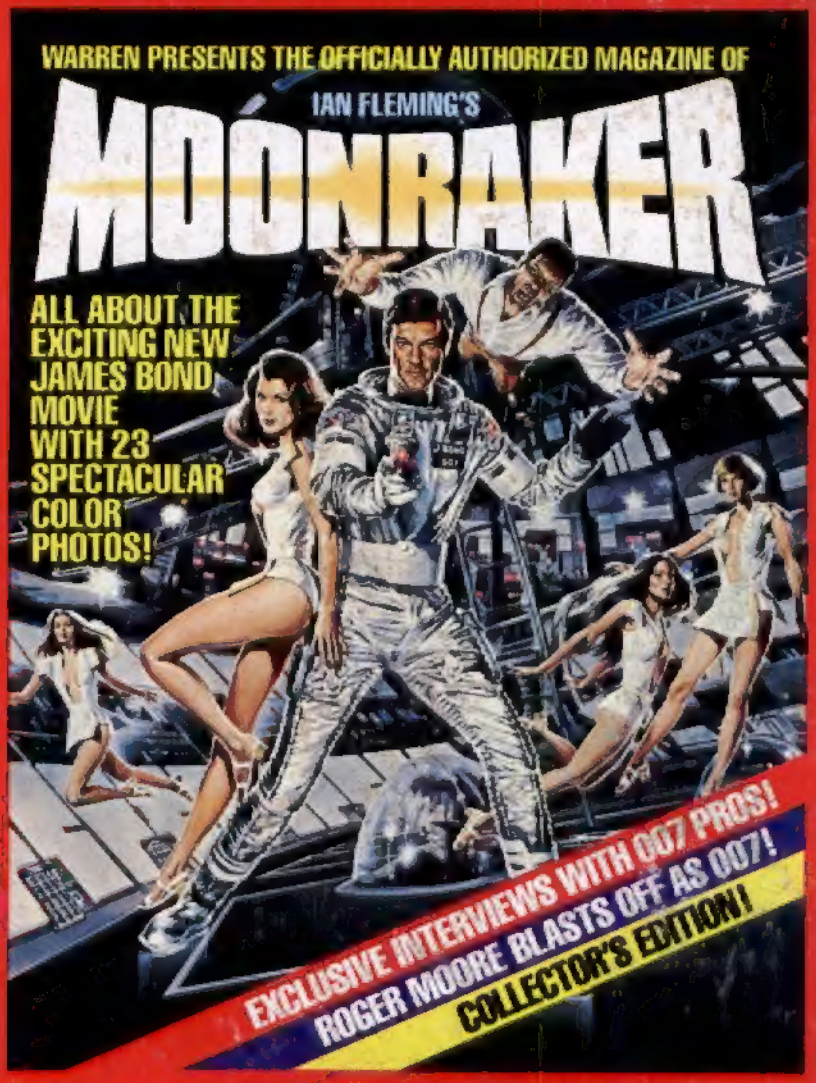

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